

# Industrial Worker

MAY 1997

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EDUCATION ORGANIZATION EMANCIPATION

## Fascist attacks menace all workers

The night after the French Anarchist Federation's Lyon group organized a demonstration against the fascist National Front, the FAF's Lyon bookshop was broken into and destroyed by fire. The February 16th attack was met with a 3,000 person demonstration and the bookshop was reopened in an adjoining space a few days later.

But the National Front continues its campaign of intimidation and terror. In cities where the Front has taken control of local government they have stopped library subscriptions to radical and minority newspapers, refused to stock books by Jewish authors, and required librarians to fill their shelves with fascist books and magazines. National Front leaders have also sued the FAF's weekly newspaper, *Le Monde Libertaire*, claiming it damaged the fascists' precious public reputation.

Even as the fascists try to censor their opponents — turning to the courts, the police or the gasoline can, depending upon the means at their disposal — the ruling parties are capitulating to their ideas. The National Front scapegoats immigrants for high unemployment and cuts in social services (as if immigrant workers were the ones deciding to close factories, shift production overseas, slash social spending, etc.), and the mainstream parties of both the left and the right have echoed the fascists. Under the pretext of fighting clandestine immigration, new laws make the lives of immigrant workers harder and more precarious. Immigrants are subject to police checks, interned in camps where they lack legal safeguards, discriminated against in schools and social services. Long-time residents are ordered to leave the country, political refugees are deported, the government is competing with the fascists to see which can most brutally implement the racist project.

The fight against immigrant workers is hardly unique to France. In the United States, workers who became disabled slaving for the bosses here are to be denied health care and disability benefits. The children of immigrant workers are threatened with expulsion from schools. Immigrant workers are being denied health care, unemployment benefits, even the right to a hearing before being deported.

In Spain, fascists set fire to the Ateneo Libertario of Berga (Catalunya) in February. On March 5 an arson fire totally de-

*continued on page 14*

## European workers fighting back

In the UK the bosses have had the upper hand for nearly a generation. The conservative party have been in power since 1979 and have set the agenda, shackling the unions, deliberating creating unemployment and destroying the old power base of the traditional trade unions in manufacturing. The greatest victory came in 1984 when they took on and defeated the miners. 1996 may have been the year when things turned the way of the workers.

It will be a long haul back but there are signs of improvement. The good news was that the rate of strike action trebled between 1995 and 1996. In 1995 414,000 working days were "lost" to employers through strike action. In 1996 this rose to 1,300,000. The number of strikers increased from 174,000 to 360,000, 5 percent of union members.

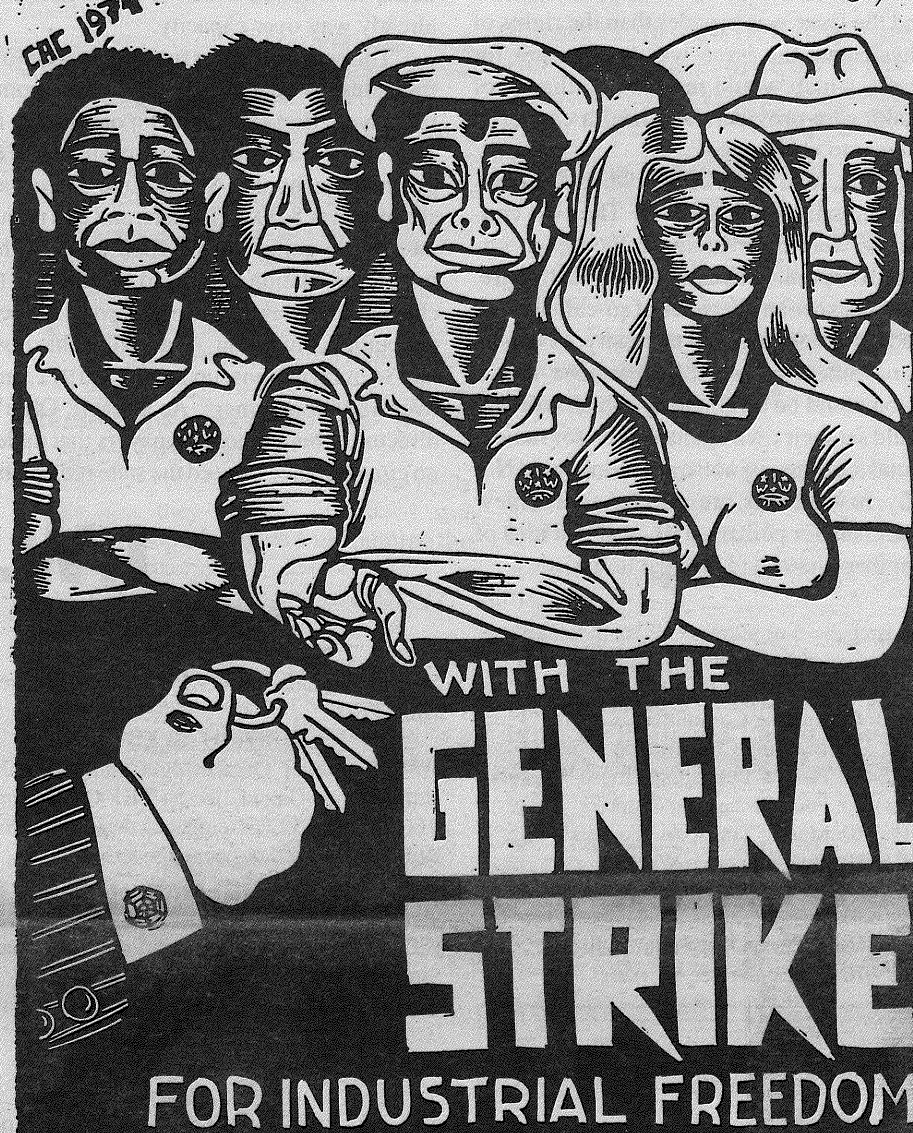
### Solidarity points way ahead

On March 16 an estimated 50,000 workers from 9 countries marched in a dazzling display of solidarity in Brussels, Belgium, to protest Renault's plan to close its Vilvorde, Belgium, plant. Autoworkers from across Europe were joined by workers from the steel, textile, and telecom industries to demonstrate against the decision and to call for a more social Europe.

Spontaneous demonstrations erupted the week before when 8,000 Renault workers from Belgium, France and Spain converged on the automaker's Paris headquarters. Europe's unions have since been scrambling to put together a list of demands that will address the fear of plant closures that is racing through the European working class. The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) stated, "The industrial strife at the Renault plant has once again highlighted the rift between financial Europe and social Europe. This unacceptable gap must be closed without delay." The ETUC called for sanctions against companies taking public money and then relocating jobs.

The in-house strikes (1 hour per shift) started by the workers at Vilvorde quickly

# IT'S ALL OURS!



spread to Renault plants in France and Spain and to General Motors, Ford, Volkswagen and Volvo sites in Belgium. These actions grew to marches of 50,000 in a week's time.

Rudi Kennes, an Opel worker in Bel-

gium, voiced his practical view of solidarity, "Other auto companies are thinking about plant closures. If we let Renault get away with Vilvorde without a fight, it will

*continued on page 11*

## The Lessons of the Detroit Strike

Last February unions representing the 2500 workers at the two major newspapers in Detroit agreed to return to work unconditionally. For nineteen months the newspaper strikers had fought two media giants in one of the most turbulent strikes in recent history. The decision to return to work without a contract marks a bitter defeat for the entire union movement. It also highlights the potential role of the IWW in future struggles.

As working people have been driven to the wall, a series of strikes have provided hope that the current employer offensive can be reversed, and that a new upsurge in militancy can point the way toward a just society. Over the last dozen years, the clash at the Hormel plant in Austin Minnesota, the confrontations in Decatur Illinois with Bridgestone, Caterpillar, and Staley, the battles in New Haven Connecticut at Yale University have all involved local unions in desperate efforts to hold the line against powerful, and immensely wealthy, institutions. In each case the unions have been defeated, despite the valiant efforts of the workers. Unfortunately, Detroit has now taken its place on this growing list.

As usual, there are claims of a moral victory, with union officials insisting that actions against the Detroit papers will con-

tinue. These claims ring hollow. We have had all too many moral victories these past years. Working people need to win, to defeat the vicious onslaught of ruthless corporate behemoths. This can only happen when the conflict spreads beyond the local union, when workers in other workplaces mobilize to defend those under attack. Until now, this has not happened.

The Detroit newspaper strike began in July 1995 when two of the largest newspaper chains in the country, Gannett and Knight-Ridder, demanded that the workers at the Detroit News and the Detroit Free Press agree to savage cutbacks in wages and working conditions. This was a deliberate

provocation, a decision to confront the newspaper unions where they were strongest. Detroit remains a union town, with tens of thousands of auto workers within fifty miles of downtown. By targeting Detroit, Gannett and Knight-Ridder sent a clear signal that the industry would be run their way, with unions decimated, and working conditions and wages driven down to rock bottom.

The newspaper workers understood from the beginning that this was not business as usual, that they were engaged in a fight to the finish. In September 1995 large demonstrations were called to halt scab trucks hauling daily newspapers from print-

*continued on page 8*



### In This Issue...

2nd Encuentro Call

Wobbling in Washington

Direct Action News

Asian Dockers Meet

Their Unionism, And Ours

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## Needed: A New Unionism

I was listening to public radio March 27, to an interview with two of the convenors of a bio-ethics conference commemorating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the American Medical Association.

The interviewer asked what recourse a physician who was the employee of an HMO had if s/he was fired for recommending or even discussing treatment to a patient that did not make a profit for the owning corporation. Both convenors agreed a doctor in that situation had no recourse. Did they think that a physicians' union might be an answer? No, because *to join a union is to accept the bosses' right to set the agenda* and the issue was broader than the rights of physicians; the issue was health care for profit, which would require an alliance of health care providers and health care consumers to challenge.

That, fellow workers, is what U.S. business unionism has sunk to. The two convenors were not managers, they even opposed corporate management of health care. But after so many decades of so-called labor leaders preaching the necessity of labor-management partnership, the idea that a union could be a vehicle by which workers could set their own agenda, even for radical social change, is not even thinkable. Not only new unions are needed, but a new unionism. Or perhaps a 91-year-old idea of member-controlled wildcat unionism.

X331052

Job Branch= 5 or more members in workplace  
GMB=General Membership Branch  
IU=Industrial Union Del=Delegate  
GOC= Organizing Committee.

IU 330: Building Construction Workers  
IU 450: Print & Publishing House Workers  
IU 460: Food Processing Workers  
IU 510: Marine Transport Workers  
IU 610: Health Service Workers  
IU 620: Education Workers  
IU 630: Entertainment Workers  
IU 660: General Distribution Workers  
IU 670: Public Service Workers

# Industrial Worker

## THE VOICE OF REVOLUTIONARY UNIONISM

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represent the official position of the  
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Press Date: April 13, 1997

# Readers' Soapbox

## From the Gulag

I expect that soon there will be another major riot in the Ohio gulag system. Last February the system was again ordered to reduce overcrowding or face major fines. Right away they came out with new draconian policies that adversely affect the tiny bit of "quality of life" we had here. They're not even allowing us to properly dry out towels after a shower. Last week there was a mini-riot in the Noble Correctional Institution, which is brand new and already way over capacity.

This week the court rules against Ohio's financing of schools. When state income taxes were first shoved down our throats in 1971, the whole proceeds were supposed to go to the schools. At the time Ohio had slightly over 8,000 prisoners, and that population was going down. Then in 1974 the prison population started to go up, due to changes in the law reducing the proof needed to obtain a conviction. As a result, Ohio now has 34 main prisons, up from 7 in 1971, and over 48,000 prisoners. As a result, Ohio's director of budget told taxpayers that under no circumstances would the state reduce the

prisoner population; instead taxes will go up to finance schools. I'm willing to bet that most of the money from the increased taxes will find its way to build more prisons and house more prisoners. Since 1983 prisons have been Ohio's only growth industry and they're the last remaining major bastion of graft and nepotism for the state's politicians and high-ranking officials.

I really like the current format of the *Industrial Worker*. Keep up the great work.

I am working on major lawsuits with the Prisoners Advocacy Network. Please let me know if you are interested in helping us publicize this effort. On this note I will end with a blessing for a more peaceful and just world.

— Jacob Feuerwerker  
PO Box 1812 - A187402  
670 Williamsport Rd E  
Marion, OH 43301-1812

## Songbook Usage

The 36th edition of the Little Red Songbook was released on May 1, 1995. Besides the classic labor songs, it contains a number of new songs. In the interests of feedback, the songbook committee is doing a survey.

In the last year have you sung any songs from the songbook? If so, which ones?

Where at — Branch meeting, benefit, rally, picket line, other?

Any favorite new songs?

Any comments on songs, songbook?

Remember, singing a couple songs is a good way to enliven even the most routine Branch meeting. For rallies and benefits, you can photocopy and enlarge songs and distribute them to the crowd.

Please send your replies to:

Penny Pixler  
1417 W Cuyler #3  
Chicago IL 60613

## People are angry

The March For Social Justice on April 12th was for me a perfect example of the growing tide of solidarity within Britain today. I saw a lot of anger last Saturday, passionate anger against a system that has forced people into a situation where they have to take to the streets to fight for even the basic needs in life such as a job & a 'decent' wage.

Walking past Downing Street I could see people shouting abuse at the riot-shield clad police lining the 15ft gates at the street's entrance. There is no sense of any  
*continued on page 4*

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Long Haul Resource Center, 3124 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 94705. 510/845-0540. GMB meets 3rd Saturdays at Long Haul, 1:30 p.m., Open delegates meeting 1st Saturdays at Long Haul, 1:30 p.m. General Organizing Committee meets 4th Saturdays at San Francisco office. GDC meets as needed contact: 510/549-0358.

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IU630 Workers Stories Workers Lives Job Shop— Albert Parsons 313/769-0695  
IU670 Ann Arbor Tenants Union Job Shop— 4001 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor 48109. 313/763-6876.

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Rochelle Semel, RD 1 Box 158-B, Hartwick 13348. 607/293-6489.  
IU670 Socialist Party Natl Office Job Shop— 516 W. 25th St. #404, NYC 10001. 212/691-0776

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Industrial Transportation Project— Arthur Miller, POB 5464, Tacoma 98415-0464  
Olympia— PO Box 2775, 98507. 360/753-5919.  
Puget Sound GMB— P.O. Box 4814 Seattle 98104-0814 206/935-9012

## WISCONSIN

IU450 Lakeside Press Job Shop— 1334 Williamson, Madison 53703 608/255-1800.  
Madison GMB— c/Lakeside Del: Jerry Chernow

## WYOMING

Jackson— Teton Jack Langan, del., POB 4056, 89001. 307/733-4553



# Wob tug enforces picket

Oakland outer harbor was recently the scene of battle in which an IWW jobshop was able to play a decisive role. The Master, Mates and Pilots (MMP) employees of Oscar Neimeth Towing Co. had had all they could stand, watching their work get sold to another towboat company. There were other problems, relating to recent contract talks, and the poor attitude of the company's newer management, led by Doug Neimeth.

A strike was called March 20th. Management manned the boats, and the strikers contacted FW Dan Wilson, captain of the Sea Dive. Dan responded immediately, and the SeaDive sailed for outer harbor, where the California Saturn was about to be docked by Oscar Neimeth tugs.

Dan placed his boat, a 50' wooden tug built in 1916, and holding an IWW job shop card since 1991, between the 850' ship and the dock, forcing the pilot to anchor in mid-stream, and effectively shutting down Oakland outer harbor. The stalemate continued for a couple of hours, while lawyers from Neimeth negotiated with MMP officials.

As expected, the Federal Government weighed in in favor of the employer, and the Coast Guard was dispatched to clear Sea Dive away from the dock. ILWU Local 10 members, dispatched to tie the ship up, respected the picket, and refused to work. To his credit, the pilot, an MMP member, refused to blame Dan for the delay, saying that he was holding up in respect of the ILWU picket and for safety reasons, since there were no linemen available.

Eventually, after getting word that a handshake agreement was reached, the MMP called off the action, and the ship was allowed to proceed to the dock.

Conservative estimates place the delay of a containership at \$10000/hour, to say nothing of the costs of longshore labor idled, or the ripple effect on other ships that were delayed as a result. Oscar Neimeth Towing learned that the Maritime workers of the San Francisco Bay will stand together, and are not afraid to put all on the line to preserve our conditions or jurisdiction.

## Organizing Edinburgh

Edinburgh, Scotland, Wobblies are leafletting local infirmaries and other health care facilities with a new new organising leaflet targetting health workers. A new IWW magazine, *Bread and Roses*, is to be launched in time for distribution at the Miners Gala and may be adopted as a UK-wide project. And the EWIU 620 branch at Stevenson College continues to issue its newsletter, *Chloroform*. Issue #3 leads with a discussion of a recent debacle over negotiations by the Educational Institute of Scot-

## Around Our Union

land union at nearby Coatbridge College. Faculty at Coatbridge are in the same branch but covered by two different agreements. When lower-paid members struck for two days, the promoted staff scabbed on them and complained to EIS headquarters claiming that some strikers had uttered unkind words about this scabbery. So the EIS labor fakers ousted the branch officials.

"At the time of writing several new unions are rumoured to be in the process of forming. These include the union of Amalgamated Ponces in Pin-stripe; the Undivided Sons and Daughters of Individual Productivity Deals; the Educational Planners and Administrators Protective Lodge; the Myself First Death Benefit Union; and the Benevolent Compilation of Competitive Obsessives.

"With all these new organisations there would seem to be greater opportunity for individuals to engage in union scabbing. Every dispute will be someone else's dispute. This is the logical outcome of the divisiveness of 'unions' based on narrow occupational groupings where an injury to one remains an injury to all."

The newsletter also reports on contracting-out of temporary and part-time lecturers at Aberdeen and Falkirk colleges, resulting in a £3 per hour pay cut to the affected workers, and suggests organising a network of temporary workers in education to help prevent such abuses.

## St. Patrick's Day

Bay Area Wobblies joined about 18 others in an Anti-Imperialist contingent in the annual San Francisco St. Patrick's day parade forming an Anti-Imperialist contingent. The IWW had a beautiful banner with their logo in red and black. The contingent was organized by the Irish Republican Solidarity Club, whose banner quoted James Connolly - "The Cause of Labour is the Cause of Ireland" - with some red stars spewed about and a van commemorating 25th anniversary of Bloody Sunday.

## Boston Borders picketed

Boston GMB continued to picket Borders, with the assistance of several high

school students who came down from Maine to join us on the line March 22. We turned away three dozen shoppers and passed out nearly 500 flyers over three hours on the line that day, also turning away an Airborne Express delivery man who announced that he would not cross a picket line. A few days later, the students picketed the Portland, Maine, Borders in the freezing weather for about an hour until stopped by a combination of running short of leaflets, bitter cold and Borders' threats of impending arrest.

## Free Speech Fight

Sundance Natural Foods of Eugene, Oregon, found out the consequences of calling the cops on Wobblies March 29. The Eugene GMB, who had been leafletting the store twice weekly for about a month in support of the Gardenburger boycott, had had the cops called twice on them on the previous weekend, including one incident in which the police responded by sending seven cruisers in response to three fellow workers who were leafletting the store.

In response, the Eugene GMB organized a picket of the store in which approximately 50 people participated. These folks included, besides the Wobs, members of IATSE, AFMCSE, the Oregon Public Employees Union, CISCAP, the Eugene Springfield Solidarity Network, and other concerned community members. Wobs with bullhorns led the pickets in chants and songs while the music of FW Utah Phillips wafted over the abnormally-empty parking lot.

As a result, the Eugene GMB recovered the use of the sidewalk in front of the store, free of police harassment.

Hopefully, we also sent a message to the bosses of Eugene that its workers are no longer willing to tolerate such harassment, especially when it comes from the hands of an organization that purports to practice a "kinder, gentler capitalism" (of course we all know that this concept is just for of the same old shit covered up with another load of baby powder).

All in all, a wonderful time was had by all, except of course the bosses and the scissorbills who crossed the line.

— x345088

## 10 Months Fighting Borders

Capital District IWW continued boycott pickets at Borders' Albany area store in March and April, as the union marked 10 months since the illegal firing of Miriam Fried by the bookstore chain. Albany Wobs distributed copies of the Borders internal memo in which retail division wag Cindi Forslund warned other Borders bosses about increased union activity. The communique alerts Borders managers to watch for their "union avoidance" packages due to arrive soon. Local IWW delegate Greg Giorgio reports that the press have begun to take notice of the case of late, with two of the major dailies giving space to a local angle on the boycott and a UFCW drive at the Albany store.

"Any way to keep the heat on Borders at this stage is key," Giorgio said, in order to maintain public awareness of the boycott. "We continue to make personal contacts with union locals; anything to add some links to the chain around these union busters." AFSCME Local 2055 endorsed the boycott in March.

Capital District IWW also leafletted downtown Schenectady March 19th and joined in a sunrise to sundown fast for three days to protest proposed budget cuts (attacks on poor working people) in New York and the nation. The action was organized by the New York state labor-religion coalition.

And Capital District Wobblies walked to observe the "stations of the cross" in a Good Friday action led by Catholic Workers to address issues including capital punishment, attacks on welfare benefits and economic injustice.



Philadelphia Wobbly Michell Heim stands in front of the Sears that fired her on August 16th, 1996. Store Operator Glen Flemming discharged Michell for "spreading rumors and false information" just six days after she started an organizing drive. In recent weeks, Sears has offered to settle Michell's unfair labor practice charge with the National Labor Relations Board. One week before her scheduled hearing of March 26th, Sears changed counsel, and then decided one day before the hearing to settle out of court. Sears also backed out of a previous settlement conference scheduled for late January. When Sears finally stops dithering around and comes to terms with the wrongful firing of Michell Heim, the Philadelphia IWW looks forward to continuing our organizing drive.

## Toronto IWW Benefit May 13

"Mother Jones Was Not A Magazine!" is the theme of a May 13th benefit for The Toronto Branch of The Industrial Workers of the World and Common Knowledge Books beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Oasis Club, 294 College Street (at Robert).

Union activist Mary (Mother) Jones returns from the dead in a one-woman play by Ronnie Gilbert read by Barbara Gordon. Mother Jones will also field questions from today's Toronto left. Also appearing are: Rick Fielding, Politickil Incorrect, and Urban Refuse Group. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door/sliding scale/PWYC. Phone: 416/534-2977 for information.

## May Day Celebrations

Madison, Wisconsin, Wobblies help organize Madison's traditionally ambitious schedule of events celebrating May Day, including concerts, lectures, a May 1 rally and a trip to Waldheim Cemetery May 11.

**Boston**, Massachusetts, Wobblies will join the annual May Day rally sponsored by the Immigrant Workers Resource Center. This year's rally will begin at 5 p.m. at Mozart Park in Jamaica Plain, followed by a celebration at a nearby club.

**Olympia**, Washington, Wobs are sponsoring a May 2 celebration at Liberation Cafe with speakers and music, and a benefit concert at the Matrix Coffeehouse the next evening for the Centralia Mural Project.

**Chicago** Wobs are co-sponsoring a May Day celebration at the 2nd Unitarian Church featuring music by Mitch Walking Elk and other local musicians, poetry by Carlos Cortez, and short speeches.

**Southeast Michigan** Wobblies are sponsoring three days of activities with Jobs With Justice and the People's Progressive Network. On May Day media will be taken on a tour of locations with labor problems: 1) University Hospital facing privatization in several areas, plus major cutbacks in nursing and other health care areas. 2) Ann Arbor public schools where teachers have been working without a contract throughout this school year. 3) Borders. 4) Motor Wheel, Ypsilanti, supplier to the big 3 auto makers; workers given the choice of more than 50% reduction in wages or plant shut down with work going to a nonunion Motor Wheel plant. The workers said no, and the plant is scheduled to close soon. 5) Willow Run —

continued on page 6

## PREAMBLE TO THE IWW CONSTITUTION

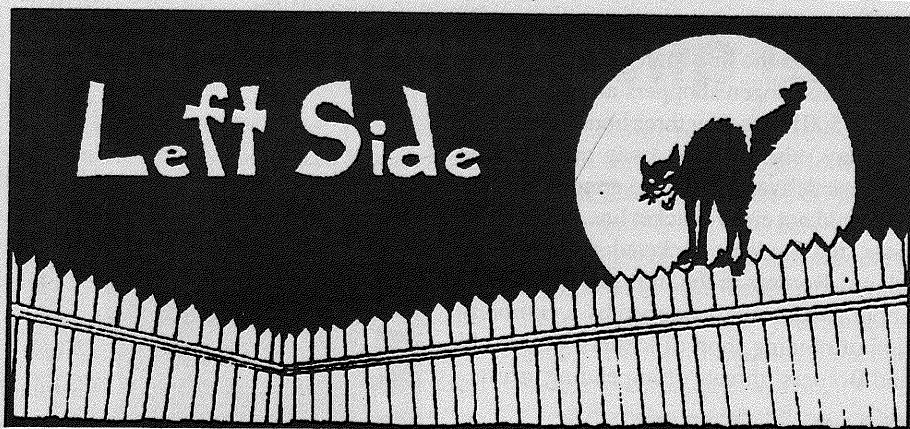
**The working class and the employing class have nothing in common.** There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life. **Between these two classes** a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth.

**We find** that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

**These conditions can be changed** and the interests of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

**Instead of the conservative motto**, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system." **It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism.** The army of production must be organized, not only for everyday struggle with the capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.





So you may know how well your duly elected representatives respect your hard-worked-for tax money, be enlightened all ye Freedomland taxpayers:

According to the Associated Press it has been disclosed that a number of military construction projects continue to be fully funded by the Pentagoniffs long after the facilities on which they are housed had been designated for permanent closure, among which are the following:

A \$13 million navy dining hall in Orlando, Florida, a \$5 million navy chapel in San Diego, a \$3 million army classroom building outside of Chicago and a \$5 million air force fire station and training facility in Indianapolis, Indiana. Typical of the working of bureaucratic thinking everywhere, a navy spokesman in San Diego felt that "The taxpayers are going to have to pay for it anyway, so why not complete it?"

Maybe this is why there are those turn to religion.

These 39 computer experts who committed mass suicide the other month in California present an interesting phenomenon in our present-day capitalist society. Here you had a sophisticated group of well-educated individuals who were tops in their scientific field and not the usual run of marginally educated losers who were the bulk of the suicide-prone religious sect that committed mass-suicide in South America. Those poor souls were recruited from the poorer fringes of the marginally employed sectors of the working class whose educational level was quite low and who are usually thought of as the ones who are prone to be taken in by the off-beat messiahs. People whose chances in living a good life are dim are the prime targets for those who can promise than pie in the sky.

Desperation combined with a feeling of hopelessness is what can cause a drowning person to grasp for floating straws. Such can happen in a society where, if unionism hasn't been completely subverted, it is presented by the mass media in a negative light.

But in California these were a group of highly educated and technologically talented professionals who had everything going for them. Are we to believe the same desperate hopelessness afflicts them as well? It is here that it must be remembered that for all their lofty positions that they may enjoy in the technological sphere, they are still but hired hands like the rest of us unsophisticated proles, and as such live under the same economic system that messes up the rest of us.

The specialized technology that they produce is at the convenience of the same ruling elite that we ordinary working stiffs prostitute our labor for; for those whose principal interests are the consolidation of wealth and power of their minuscule segment of the human race.

In the final analysis we day-to-day working stiffs are the street-walkers while these highly trained professionals are the call-girls. The difference is only one of degree. When the "john" pays more, he has to be buttered up accordingly. The professional not only has to peddle his derriere but his soul as well.

While the highly salaried professional may consider himself as a cut above the clock-punching wage slave, he or she still has more in common with the wage-earning sibling than with the employer.

For when the professional no longer serves the interest of the boss, the highly salaried pros can find themselves on the scrap heap along with the clock-puncher. Not only that, but they have to breathe the same polluted air and drink the same contaminated water. They also have the added realization that their generously funded research enables the master class to reap further profits by raping the precious environment in which we billions have to live.

Could it be realizations such as this that would cause them to seek spiritual "comfort"? Many diversions have been provided by those who manipulate us so that our attention is drawn away from the real issues. How else can the bulk of us watch the pampered movie stars, sports luminaries and rock musicians receive for

their contributions so much more in excess of our substandard wages or government welfare pittance without us becoming incensed? Not to mention the military parasites, the overpaid politicians and the economic overloads whose wealth is greater than ever...

Ain't you glad you voted?

— C.C.Redcloud

## Soapbox: People are angry...

*continued from page 2*

so-called 'national pride,' just anger, anger at a corrupt system, and at the same time an immense atmosphere of solidarity, solidarity with people they'd never met, but identified with. People from all walks of life had come to march, flags and banners of all types were held high with pride and defiance, it made me proud to be a Socialist.

If that march has one overall lesson it is that there are still people in this country who are willing to fight back against, to stand up in solidarity and unity with their fellow worker. The fight will continue from this day and we must ensure that it succeeds.

Victory To The Liverpool Dockers!  
Dean Scurlock, Cardiff

## Utah Phillips Honored

Wobbly bar Bruce "Utah" Phillips was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award Feb. 13 at the North American Folk Music and Dance Alliance convention in Toronto. The award was presented by Ani Difranco (who recently issued a CD with Phillips) and Pete Seeger.

## Too Much Prosperity

The economy is booming so fast that the bankers are in a bit of a panic. Unemployment is down almost to 5 percent. (Two decades ago that was considered high, but it's a phony number anyway — millions of our fellow workers aren't counted because they've given up trying to find a master.) The situation is so desperate, the boss press bleats, that a few companies have actually had to — gasp — raise wages! Economists are calling for stern measures to drive unemployment up. Perhaps with a change of management we could instead cut the work week, enjoy a bit of free time, and put the bosses to honest work...

## John Sweeney, Capitalist stooge

But don't look to AFL-CIO President John Sweeney to lead the charge.

Speaking before Business for Social Responsibility in October 1996, Sweeney declared, "We want to help American business compete in the world and create new wealth for your shareholders and your employees. We want to work with you to bake a larger pie which all Americans can share and not just argue with you about how to divide the existing pie. It is time for business and labor to see each other as natural allies, not natural enemies."

The bosses are our friends. That's always been the AFL line. That's why they bust our unions, drive us like slaves, pay us only a fraction of the wealth we produce, and throw us on the scrapheap whenever they see an opportunity to make even higher profits off some other wage slave even more desperate than we.

We in the IWW see things differently. "The working class and the employing class have nothing in common," it says in the Preamble to our Constitution. Rather than begging the bosses for a few more crumbs, we propose to dump them off our backs...

## Stealing from the poor

"Welfare reform" is stealing from the poor to take from the poor. That's the only conclusion I can draw from New York State's workfare program, in which "nonprofit" hospitals and government agencies are laying off low-paid workers or cutting back their hours, and having unpaid welfare recipients fill in their stead. In Baltimore, the public schools are replacing minimum wage workers with \$1.50-an-hour workfare.

Thousands of workers are being thrown out of their jobs to make room for welfare recipients who don't even get minimum wage. In other cities, officials are forcing recipients to take jobs at wages so meager

## Cyber censorship

There has been growing debate of late about the need to censor the internet to protect children from violence and pornography. The Boston Public Library is among several schools and libraries which have installed automated software to "protect" children and others by blocking access to such materials. But it seems the censors running these systems have more important matters on their minds than a little flesh. Among the sites blocked by CyberPatrol, for example, was the *Industrial Worker's* on-line edition. An automated message explained our site was blocked because of "violence/profanity."

Wobblies have always known that the most violent act one could commit, at least so far as the bosses are concerned, was to hit these parasites in their pocketbooks. They know it too.

Anyway, our vigilant cyber production workers got on the case, and the censors have agreed to remove us from their list of censored sites. (Now all the fellow workers have to do is get the current issue up...)

that the bosses can't find workers who can afford to take them. Meanwhile, a House Ways and Means Committee reports that welfare checks lost half their buying power in the last 25 years.

And the *New York Times* reports that farm workers' wages aren't just falling in inflation-adjusted dollars — they're falling absolutely. In 1986 workers were paid \$3.70 per box of broccoli they picked, today they get only \$2.50. Farm workers in northern California report that their annual earnings have fallen from a poverty-level \$9,000 a year a decade ago to just \$8,000 today. Employers complain that a labor shortage is making it difficult to cut wages even more...

## Editor's Notebook



## Progress

New evidence proves that the claim that capitalism has devel-

oped the means of production and enhanced the general welfare is an out-and-out lie. Archeologists excavating a Salvadoran village buried by a volcano have found rich stores of food, pottery, etc. "The standard of living 1,400 years ago was higher than it is now among the peasants of El Salvador," notes archeologist Payson Sheets. Capitalism was a rotten system from day 1; we become poorer every day we allow ourselves to remain shackled to this profit (for a few) system of wage-slavery...

Back in New York City, 4,000 job seekers spent several hours in line applying for 700 jobs paying from \$6 to \$15 an hour. The cost of employing those 700 lucky wage slaves runs about \$14 million a year. Last year, IBM's chief executive received \$20.2 million in total pay. He probably thinks capitalism's a great system.

## Politics 101

A recent op-ed piece in the *Times* intended to show the "hazy notion" most Russians have of politics showed quite the opposite. A tram driver asked about the relationship between voters and their "representatives" knew exactly what was going on: "The relationship is very simple. They have everything. I have nothing. They drive in limousines. I walk."

So don't let anyone tell you workers are too stupid to figure out what's going on. That's not the problem. The problem lies in convincing our fellow workers that it's possible to do something about the situation, and then organizing to build the kind of world we'd like to live in...

— Jon Bekken

## New leader in fight vs. sweatshops?

The Eddie Bauer Co. was honored by the U.S. Department of Labor for efforts to combat poor working conditions for garment workers. The trendy sportswear chain is now one of 34 companies on the government's "Trendsetter List" of companies battling sweatshop conditions.

Somehow left unmentioned by the Labor Department and the media was one small piece of information on just how Eddy Bauer is able to use American labor and still remain competitive. It seems they provide employment opportunities for prisoners. Prisoners in Washington state have the chance to learn the garment trade through the efforts of Redwood Outdoors, a major supplier to Eddie Bauer. Prisoners are paid \$4.90 an hour minus deductions for room and board, leaving them between \$1.80 and \$2.80 an hour. Even prisoners in Tennessee get to participate, producing novelty items like rocking horses. Eddie Bauer joins a growing list of elite companies such as Microsoft and AT&T who are availing themselves of the \$1.4 billion prison industry. This is "trendsetting" at its best.

— Newsspeak





## A Right Became a Risk

*Your editor does not at all agree with the argument presented below that the NLRA was originally pro-union legislation. Union organizing was already well underway when the Act was passed, and its main effect was to channel workers' struggles into the A.F.L. and kindred outfits. This article appears as part of an ongoing discussion over the current state of anti-labor law.*

When Congress passed the National Labor Relations Act in 1935, it was the first time in the nation's history that the federal government recognized the right of working men and women to join a union and to elect representatives to bargain collectively in their behalf.

The intent of Congress was clearly stated in the opening passages of the Act. It sought to remedy prevailing situations where "the denial by employers of the right by employees to organize and the refusal by employers to accept the procedure of collective bargaining leads to strikes and other forms of industrial strife or unrest." The Act further stated:

"The inequality of bargaining power between employees who do not possess full freedom of association or actual liberty of contract, and employers who are organized in the corporate or other forms of ownership association substantially burdens and affects the flow of commerce, and tends to aggravate recurrent business depressions, by depressing wage rates and the purchasing power of wage earners in industry..."

Since the law regarded any form of employer intimidation, either by word or by action as an "unfair labor practice," workers felt free to join unions, encouraged by the pro-labor New Deal Administration of President Franklin Roosevelt. It is no coincidence that in the late 1930s, unions made their greatest organizing gains, adding millions of workers, including women and minorities, to their membership rolls.

Right from the outset, Big Business sought to kill or amend this landmark legislation but with little success, until their major victory immediately after World War II. Here is how it happened:

Between June and December, 1946, consumer prices rose 15 percent, with food prices rising 28 percent. In this short period, real wages dropped from an average of \$32.50 a week to less than \$30 a week, the lowest figure since the United States entry into the war. Meanwhile, corporate net profits had soared to the highest point in history, reaching 20 percent higher than even the best of the unusually lucrative war years. Inevitably, unions reacted with a series of large-scale strikes as they sought justifiable wage increases. The year 1946 saw 4.6 million workers on strike and the work stoppages continued well into 1947.

An anti-labor climate rapidly developed,

fueled by the conservative media and a public angered by the disruptive effects of the strike wave, which had caused the loss of millions of man-days of work. Some two dozen states passed laws restricting the rights of unions. Meanwhile corporate lobbyists were pressing for federal legislation that would curb "Big Labor" and give employers equal rights under the law. They achieved their goal when the 80th Congress passed the Taft-Hartley law, as amendments to the NLRA, and then overrode President Truman's veto.

Taft-Hartley placed a series of restraints on union activity, violations of which would be construed as unfair labor practices. It forbade the closed shop, "featherbedding," secondary boycotts and other practices formerly held legal and, in its section 14(b), it allowed states to adopt "right to work" legislation which outlawed the union shop.

But the greatest damage the new law did was to give employers, in the name of "fairness," the right to express their opposition to having a labor union in their enterprise. Presumably, T-H was designed to level the playing field between labor and management, but, in actuality, it made it more lopsided than ever in favor of management.

It is obvious that the mere expression of opposition to unions by an employer has an intimidating effect on his employees. Supervisors can talk to workers on the job against the idea of joining a union, while union representatives are not permitted on the workplace premises. Employers can call "captive audience" meetings of employees to explain their disapproval of unions, while labor representatives are never afforded equal time at those meetings.

Most important, an employer's expressed opposition to unions carries extraordinary weight, because he has the power to hire and fire, a weapon which he is not averse to exercising in the course of a union organizing campaign. Employees quickly get the message that joining a union is a risk, not a right. Under the present NLRB procedures, a company's legal staff can delay the Labor Board's action on unfair labor practices or elections for long periods of time, which has a demoralizing effect on an organizing campaign. No wonder that unions lose half of the representation elections conducted by the Board, after a substantial expenditure of time and money.

Increasingly, unions are bypassing the Labor Board to regain a worker's right to join a union without the risk of reprisal. They are adopting an organizing strategy that relies on using card checks rather than Labor Board elections. By obtaining signed authorization cards from 51 percent of the employees, a union can then go directly to management with a demand for contract negotiations. With documented evidence that it represents a majority of the workers,

A h Mayday: an international tribute to the working class set aside over 100 years ago in remembrance of those who lost their liberty and lives in the struggle for the 8 hour day. "8 hours for work, 8 for sleep, and 8 for what we will" was the slogan. It scared the bosses enough that they found it necessary to frame and hang the Chicago Haymarket martyrs who promoted it. And it was a struggle that organized labor won ... for a while.

When the 8 hour day campaign began it was because workers were forced to work long hours to survive. The push was for 8 hours of work for what had previously been 10 or 12 hours pay. And boy did the bosses moan. They claimed it would bankrupt them. But when it was clear that the workers were going to withhold the labor which made their profits possible, the bosses somehow found the money to pay the same wages for reduced hours. Going from astronomical to high profits made more sense than going to no profits.

### from the desk of...

Today they're whittling away at the 8 hour day once again. In the U.S. the average work week is back up to over 51 hours. Federal legislation has provided until now that any hours over 40 will at least be paid at a premium. That's supposed to discourage the bosses from turning us into drones with no time of our own. Of course there are innumerable ways to get around that. Put us on salary. The protection is only for hourly wages. Don't let us work overtime, but pay us so low that we're required to take a second job. Then it's 40 hours on either job before any overtime is paid making an 80 hour week at straight pay possible. Of course there won't be a resolution to that particular problem until we start treating capital like the hydra headed monster it is. If someone has to work 41 hours in a week, then that 41st hour should be at overtime rates, regardless of who's signing the check. But that's another battle for another day.

Recently proposed legislation from the Clinton administration has a humanitarian hue. It would give us the choice of overtime pay or "comp time" — the right to take the hours worked back in time off later. Of course there are a few bugs. Without contracts specifying when and organized workers willing to back them up, there's no guaranteeing that a worker choosing comp time instead of overtime pay will be able to take that time when he or she wants or needs to; and no guarantee that the bosses will distribute overtime equitably. Any time supposed labor friendly legislation has the support of the bosses, as this comp time proposal does, it's time to watch your back. They're out to maximize profits, not to promote the well being of the working class.

It's time to do it again. If we have to work 10 hours to purchase the things that 8 hours work provided a generation ago, then the bosses have stolen 2 more hours of each working day of our lives; and we need to take them back. In fact we've lost a lot more. Often it takes two paychecks now to support a family where one sufficed in the past. Meanwhile profits of major corporations are reaching levels which make the robber barons of old look like petty thieves.

Any profit is theft. "Labor is entitled to all it creates" goes the Wobbly slogan. But hey, I'm realistic. The labor movement is weak these days. We aren't likely to dump the bosses off our backs tomorrow. But it doesn't seem unreasonable to demand that the bosses steal no more than 8 hours out of a day from us in exchange for a living wage. The fight won't be over when we get back to the 8 hour day or to the 6 hour or even the four hour day as long as we're working for someone else's profit instead of for the benefit of the working class.

So how do we achieve this little utopia? Time to chant the mantra once again. Organize! When one worker in a shop says no to overtime and the low wages which make us even welcome extra hours of work, he or she will be replaced. When all the workers in a shop say no, replacing them won't be so easy. When all the workers in an industry say no, there will be decent wages and no overtime. When All the workers say no, there will be an end to capitalism.

There's a song in the IWW's "Little Red Songbook": "The Four Hour Day." The chorus reads: "We're going, we're going to take a four hour day. We surely will surprise the boss some first of May." Probably not this one, but some first of May.

Happy May Day.

See you on the picket line in Detroit in June, if not somewhere else sooner.

— Fred Chase, General Secretary-Treasurer

#### Charlie Sato Memorial Fund

Michael Long, Washington DC	\$100
Hazel & Tony Roehrig, Salt Lake City	20
Pete Wilcox, Honolulu HI	10

#### Utah Phillips Solidarity Fund

Mark Damron, Cincinnati OH	\$10
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#### Industrial Worker Sustaining Fund

Kevin Grimm, Los Angeles CA	\$10
Mark Damron, Cincinnati OH	10
Walter Hooke, Cambridge NY	25

Many thanks, fellow workers, for your generous support.

it is in a better position to conduct its organizing effort on a higher level, using a variety of pressure tactics if the company refuses to negotiate. The new strategy frees a union from the red-tape snarls and legalistic traps of the Labor Board that work to the advantage of employers.

If Congress refuses to pass legislation that will guarantee a worker's right to join a union without fear of intimidation, harassment and loss of job, then it will be up to the unions to devise a variety of strategies to restore that fundamental right.

— Harry Kelber

### Wage Slaves of the World Unite!

**You have nothing to lose — except your bosses.**

**Hegel's Angels**  
<http://www.iww.org/>



# Organizing Olympia, Washington

The Olympia IWW group has its hands full with a broad spectrum of organizing drives and community projects. Over the last year the group has grown from a small band of housemates to about a dozen members scattered throughout Thurston County, Washington. Currently operating under the auspices of the Puget Sound GMB, we'll be applying for our own branch charter soon.

Five of our members work at the Fish Tale Brewing Co., three of them in the brewery, two in the (smoke-free) pub. They recently "came out" to management, setting off a string of events that have already won improvements in their working conditions. Though the drama is nowhere near over, it was a successful opening salvo. We were able to prevent management retaliation (for now) by creating a climate of community awareness and support through newspaper articles, petitions, and letters to key politicians. Though we still don't have the numbers to compel collective bargaining, we've gained a secure foothold within the organization and established credibility with the rest of the workers by winning improvements for everyone.

We've also become involved in a coalition that's planning to paint a mural in Centralia to commemorate the historic events there. The chapter is one of the best-known in Wobbly and Western Washington labor history. On Armistice Day of 1919, American Legion members attacked the IWW union hall. In the ensuing gun battle, men on both sides of the conflict were killed, but only the Legionnaires are memorialized in Centralia's town square. There is no tribute to the Wobblies who were sent to prison, or to Wesley Everest, a WWI veteran and IWW member who was lynched and mutilated by Centralia's ruling business class.

The coalition is an odd one. Our group has adopted a policy of "constructive engagement," choosing to be involved in the process despite numerous misgivings. The mural committee was formed without the IWW's initial consent or involvement. We heard about the project through the Seattle labor grapevine, and began inviting ourselves to the meetings. When asked about this oversight, project organizers pled ignorance of our existence, despite the considerable publicity that our Lincoln Park Mini Market campaign had generated in the Seattle area. It became clear that this group

would proceed with or without our involvement.

Other problems exist as well. The muralist they have engaged to do the project is Mike Alewitz. Though Alewitz is a fine artist and internationally recognized for his Labor murals, he has the typical Leninist disdain for the IWW (see December *IW* article "Labor Party and the Appropriation of Wobbly Culture"). Like many mainstream unionists, including several on the mural committee, Alewitz likes the IWW so long as we're safely confined to the annals of history where (they think) we belong. It would be nearly impossible, however, to write the IWW out of the Centralia incident altogether, so until we see Alewitz's preliminary sketch, we're willing to withhold judgment.

The mural committee is a bizarre collection of Wobblies, trade unionists, Labor Party advocates, local history buffs, and Centralia businessmen. Strange bedfellows indeed! A local landlord (and Labor Party activist) named John Regan has donated the side of his building for the mural site. Despite Regan's obvious economic resources, it has fallen to the unions to raise the \$8,000 needed for Alewitz's labor and materials. A pro-business group called Destination Centralia is also supporting the project, apparently in the hopes that the mural will generate tourist dollars.

Right about now your skin's probably starting to crawl, so let me hasten to explain our rationale behind this policy of constructive engagement. The mural will get painted with or without us, so we hope that by participating in the process we can affect its outcome. Our role has become one of watchdog and, hopefully, leadership. But more importantly, the community dialogue that is being generated by the mural proposal is a golden opportunity for us to organize. Ultimately, the end product is less important than the favorable publicity we can generate for our current work. To boycott the process would merely confirm what many people already suspect, which is that we no longer exist.

The Olympia group has also partaken in an interesting dialogue with the local Thurston-Lewis County Labor Council. The Labor Council recently voted to admit the Olympia Police Guild to their ranks, defying a rule that states all local affiliates must

belong to the AFL-CIO. While local Wobs admired the council's willingness to circumvent the top-down dictates of the AFL by admitting them, and grudgingly supported the cops' right to collective bargaining with anti-union city officials, we were flabbergasted at the naïveté of unionists who could see no conflict in making common cause with the police. Though the police are working class through and through, their relationship with the labor movement has historically been, to put it politely, antagonistic.

Motivated largely out of a genuine desire to build coalitions, and partly out of a need to confront the obvious contradiction of cops-as-unionists, our local IWW group approached the council about affiliation. After all, if belonging to the AFL-CIO was no longer a prerequisite for joining the council, then what's to keep the Wobblies out? Four months later we're still waiting for a response to our written inquiry. The chilly reception was not unexpected. Our characterization of the Police Guild's affiliation as a "pact with the devil" in the local progressive tabloid didn't win us any friends on the council. The issue is not an entirely dead one, however — the dialogue will continue.

Two of our members are organizing an activists' conference in May called "From the Ground Up." The focus will be skills-sharing for activists involved in many issues, not just labor. We're also involved in planning a May Day event at the Liberation Café, the third such annual event in Olympia that Wobs have spearheaded. A couple of our members attended the regional conference in Portland last month. Several more members are engaged in organizing drives at their workplaces, drives that will hopefully bear fruit in the near future. The class struggle is alive and well in Olympia!

## May Day Celebrations...

*continued from page 3*

GM plant closed 3 years ago when the company whipsawed the work between Willow Run and a plant in Texas where the workers and community were willing to make the larger concessions.

On Friday a forum at IWW GHQ will feature spokespeople addressing each of the above situations. And on Saturday May 3rd, there will be the 2nd Annual Mayday picnic in Ypsilanti.

## IWW on-line resources

*The following list details various email lists maintained at the "iww.org" site, which is an unofficial on-line system maintained by San Francisco Bay Area Wobs:*

Industrial Union Lists. Discussion lists have been set up for every industrial union set forth in the IWW Constitution (a complete description is available at <http://www.iww.org/obu/ius>). The volume of discussion on lists varies widely.

List names follow the following pattern: iu\_\_-l with \_\_ representing the industrial union number. Note that "-l" is "dash little L" and is essential for subscriptions and mail to work properly. Thus iu110-l is the list for agricultural workers, iu620-l is for educational workers IU 620.

Other IWW-specific lists include sfgmb-l (a public mailing list for the San Francisco Bay Area GMB) and gdc-l (mailing list for the General Defense Committee of the IWW). Other lists IWW members have requested and participate in include: rebelgirl (organizing list by and for women inspired by E. Gurley Flynn), squatlink (organizing list for the international squatting community), frsc-l (mailing list for Free Radio Santa Cruz), hnj-l (mailing list for Homes Not Jails, worldwide).

To post to any of these lists, direct email to <listname@iww.org>

## Subscribing & Unsubscribing

To subscribe send email from the account you want subbed to as follows:

To: listname-request@iww.org

Subject: subscribe (No message is necessary)

To unsubscribe send email from the account you're subscribed from as follows:

To: listname-request@iww.org

Subject: unsubscribe

The two lines in question are in the header field of your email program, and are the only two lines the server will pay attention to; anything in the message body will be ignored.

Say you're a fishery worker, interested in communicating with others in your industry. Send the following message:

To: iu130-l-request@iww.org

Subject: subscribe

You should then be subscribed. After a moment or two of patience, you may send a greeting to the list to introduce yourself, and a copy of your post should be mailed to you from the list. By default, the sender receives a copy of all distributed messages, including their own (unlike some other programs).

To post: Send a message to: listname@iww.org with whatever subject line seems relevant to your post. Our hypothetical fishery worker would thus send their mail to <iu130-l@iww.org>

Getting help: First try emailing Listname-request@iww.org with the subject "help"

If automated help doesn't really help you, you need help getting on or off a list from a Real Human Being, or if you're a wobbly and would like to see a list created, list administration technical staff may be reached at <request@iww.org> Please be patient, a few unpaid volunteers are maintaining a lot of technical resources!

## General contacts:

The following email addresses may be of relevance in the course of your list usage:

iww.org system administration:  
<sysadmin@iww.org>

IWW General Headquarters:  
<iww@igc.apc.org>

For general questions about the union or its online activities, volunteers can be reached at: <staff@iww.org>

This iww.org mailing list guide prepared by: Deke Nihilson <deke@iww.org>

## May Day Comment:

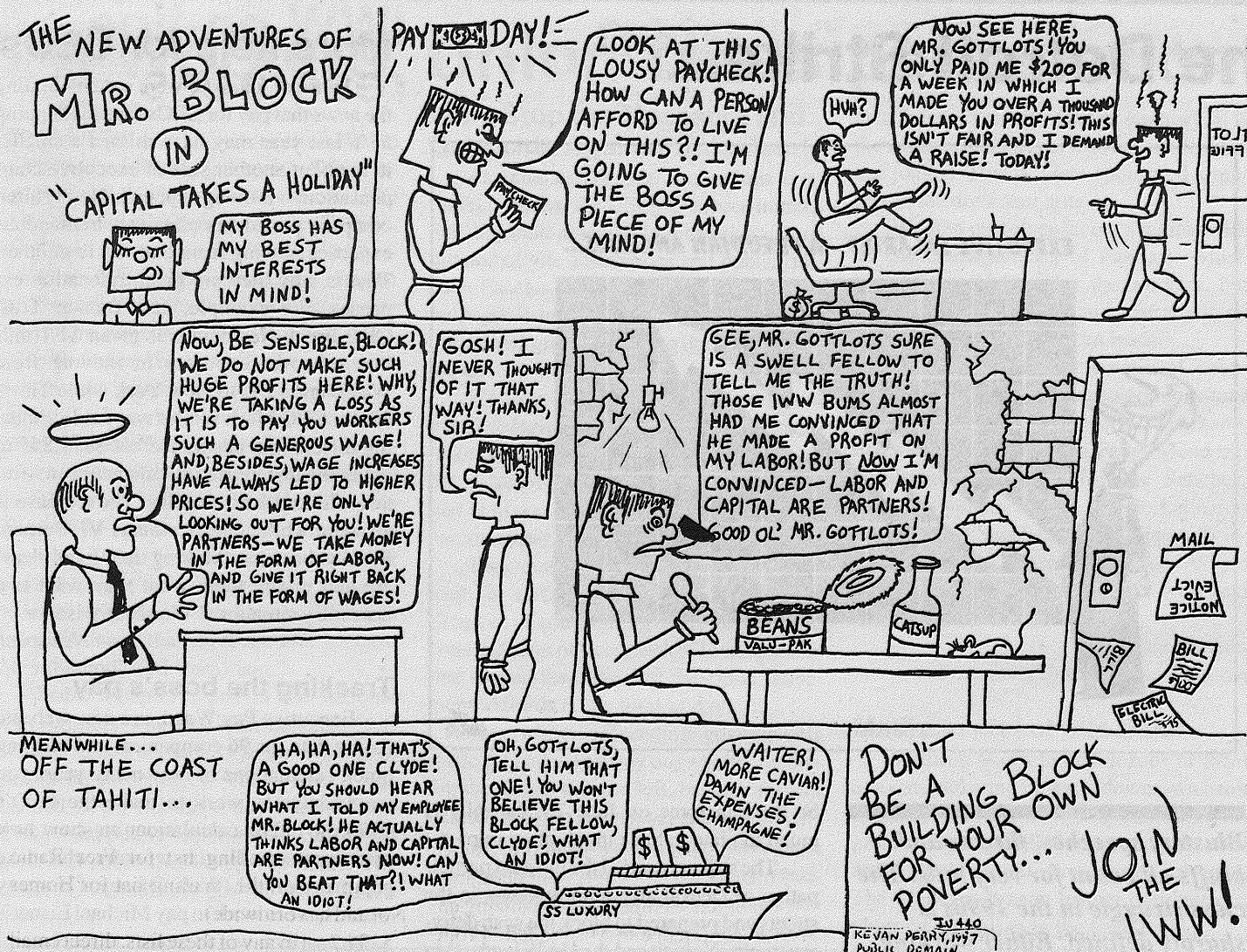
**Bolshevism is a Decrepit Dinosaur**

**Social Democracy is Totally Co-opted**

**Only the Associated Producers Themselves  
Have the Brain and Muscle  
to Take On the Predators  
of Global Corporate Capitalism**

— Solidarity Forever,  
Harry Siitonen, San Francisco Bay  
Area General Membership Branch





## May Day – Our Labor Day!!

May Day! Day when nature, herself in revolt against the trammels of the ice and cold, with sun and earth in harmony, preaches the gospel of progress! What more fitting than that this day should represent and give expression to the battle of the irresistible forces of society moving toward complete reconstruction.

True, you, our masters, have given one day a year as a day for Labor.

We the militants of labor want no day contaminated and disgraced by legal sanction. Your Labor Day means the perpetuation of capitalism; ours means its overthrow. Your Labor Day symbolizes the enslavement of the workers; ours their approaching liberation. Your Labor Day is loaded with memories of our past slavery, ours is filled with visions of future freedom!

Looters of our lives, murderers of human happiness, we ask you for nothing – not even a Labor Day. Too long have we begged and met the fate of beggars. Today we are learning not to beg but to take – not one day but all days – not a part but all we have produced.

Your Labor Day means nationalism, division of the workers; ours means internationalism – the solidarity of the workers of the world. Your Labor Day shadows the past of tears and blood; ours prefigures the day when we will not let one capitalist live as a capitalist.

Yours is the past, ours is the future, brought nearer and clearer with each of our Labor Days.

### Congo police bar union meeting on austerity

Police intervention has forced the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) to suspend a conference on structural adjustment in Brazzaville, Congo, March 19. On the opening day security forces refused entry to 20 leaders of COSYLAC, the Confederation of Free and Autonomous Trade Unions, including its President Oba Ren Blanchard.

Blanchard was arrested last year together with three Cosylac colleagues for having organized strikes in opposition to privatization moves. The four were beaten up in prison and released after five months.

Behold the depth of our contempt! Your victims today we honor! Over the graves of our martyrs we

pile the red roses, symbolic of growth, beauty and revolt. We chant

the battle songs of our class – the songs of your gloom! We scatter the ashes of one we have learned to love; we sing his songs of revolution; we recite the epic story of his life – the grandeur of his death!

We are learning that our arms are many, our power vast. That we alone are the creators of wealth – the makers of empires. We are united. In our union is our power and your doom.

Singing the songs we sing, voicing the revolt we feel are the workers of Italy, the peasants of France, the oppressed of Germany. With the snows of Siberia as a sounding board, echoed by the hills of the Balkans, in the factory hells of England, in the cannon roar of your trenches, finding response in hearts asking the why of slaughter, worldwide as your trail of blood, is today our song of revolt. The Marseillaise ... is now challenging your reign of gold – and the myriads are answering.

The songs we sing are not the songs of a race or creed. They sound the might of a class. We are confined to no country, no flag. Our songs herald your overthrow. This is Our Day. We are the forgers of revolution – the destroyers of the old and the outgrown.

### Dearborn Borders leafletted

The Dearborn, Michigan, Borders outlet was leafletted April 14th by a long Wobly who distributed information about the Borders campaign at periodical and book racks and to Borders workers until a manager ordered him to leave the store.

### Mexican official unions cower

For the third year in a row, Mexico's official labor movement has cancelled its May Day march, due to the country's continued economic difficulties and to avoid a "lack of respect" toward President Zedillo. Independent unions announced that they will carry out protests over low wages and the emergency situation that workers face.

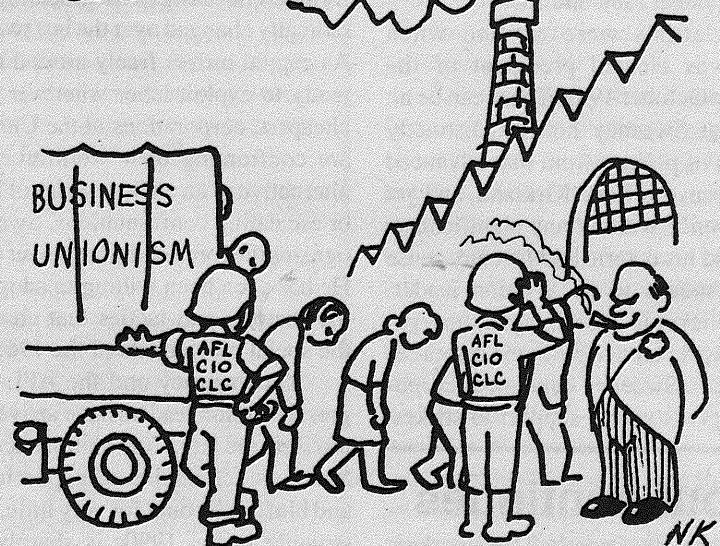
We are the nemesis of idlers – the doom of masters – the emancipators of slaves.

We are revolt. We are progress. We are revolution.

— Industrial Worker, May 1, 1917

**80 years ago in the IWW press**

**FOR Industrial Freedom**



**Build I.W.W.**

*May Day Greetings*



## Federal union blasts Democrats

The National Federation of Federal Employees, which represents 150,000 federal workers, has broken with other federal unions, blasting the Clinton-Gore administration for their anti-labor agenda.

Most unions representing government workers have embraced the White House, even though it meant losing 250,000 federal jobs and a series of shaved pay raises. Even after last year's election, the National Treasury Employees Union newspaper featured a front-page story blasting Republican presidential candidate Robert J. Dole. Inside the newspaper, there is a cartoon attacking Dole, Kemp, Ross Perot and House Speaker Newt Gingrich. Meanwhile the politician with power, President Clinton – who cut raises and jobs and now proposes major retirement changes – benefits from the old rule that says: "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all."

But there are cracks in the solid union support for the White House. Recently Ken Lyons, president of the National Association of Government Employees, demanded that Vice President Gore resign for fundraising activities that would have meant dismissal for regular civil servants.

And new NFFE President James D. Cunningham says his union will take on the Democrats. Cunningham says that "when the Clinton administration announced its downsizing initiatives ... federal unions could have, and should have, done more to prevent their implementation."

Cunningham says the government now pays personal-service contractors \$115 billion a year, which is more than the federal payroll, to do jobs once done by feds. The NFFE says it will no longer cooperate with the White House's "flawed reinvention-through-job-slashing" strategy."

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# Lessons of the Detroit Strike...

continued from page 1

ing plants. The corporations deployed a private army of goons, who, in concert with the local police, cleared the way through the thousands of protestors. Soon the corporations were in court gaining an injunction to limit the picketing to a token few. The leaders of the six striking local unions agreed to abide by the injunction, and from that point on the strike drifted into impasse. The only way the strike could have been won was by defying the injunction with massive demonstrations. Yet this necessarily involved mobilizations extending well beyond the newspaper locals.

As the strike continued, strategic direction was assumed by union officials at the national level. Digging in for a long confrontation, protests were limited to the symbolic. Since the union bureaucracy had no intention of activating the membership, strike tactics were limited to rhetorical denunciations of corporate greed, a consumer boycott of selected newspapers in the Gannett and Knight-Ridder chain, and token acts of civil disobedience. Underlying the campaign was an implicit analysis that proposed to embarrass the two corporations, damaging their public image, and in this way cajoling them into signing an acceptable contract. This was a strategy that was bound to fail, since neither of the two media conglomerates cared one whit about public relations. Their concerns were far more narrowly focused, a bottom line flush with increased profits.

In formulating its strike plan, the union leadership acted in accord with their overall perspective. The Detroit strike was not lost by business unionists lulled by the call for company-union cooperation. Quite on the contrary. This was a strike lost by the progressive wing of the union leadership. In particular, it was John Sweeney, AFL-CIO president, Ron Carey, Teamsters president, and Stephen Yokich, president of the United Auto Workers, who were instrumental in the failure to respond to the Detroit strikers. It is these leaders, and their liberal cohorts, who will continue to lose critical strikes as long as they remain unchallenged by an active, motivated rank and file.

Many leftists were thrilled when Sweeney was elected president of the AFL-CIO in October 1995. There can be no question that Sweeney holds a distinctly different set of politics from that advanced by his predecessor, Lane Kirkland, and yet it is a difference without any significance. Kirkland and his coterie had lost any sense of what it means to be a union leader. Sweeney believes in organizing the unorganized, and is prepared to put some resources into this effort. Sweeney denounces corporate greed, gives verbal support to strikes,

## Lockout continues

Fewer than 50 of nearly 2,000 workers have been called back to work, and many who went back were forced to accept lower wages and have lost seniority rights. The Gannett-owned *Detroit News* is proving particularly reluctant to take back locked-out workers, continuing to add scabs to its payroll even after the strikers agreed to unconditionally return to work. A handful of workers have turned down offers to return, saying they will not go back to work until everyone does.

Hearings have begun in the first of dozens of cases of locked-out workers illegally discharged by the *Free Press*, *News* and *Detroit Newspapers* in retaliation for their union activities.

The newspaper unions continue publication of the *Sunday Journal* and are trying to sustain advertising and circulation boycotts against the *News* and the *Free Press*.



***Blustery speeches, threats and bluffs all count for very little. The class struggle in the 1990s is sharply defined. Either working people act in unison to defend their rights, or wages and working conditions will continue to spiral downward...***

and backs civil disobedience as a tactic in the struggle. The more outspoken of his supporters, such as Bob Wages of Oil and Chemical, are even willing to question the subservience of the labor movement to Clinton and the Democratic party, and to voice the possibility of a labor party.

This is certainly a distinct perspective than that projected by Kirkland, and, before him, George Meany. Yet for all the posturing, little has actually changed. Union membership remains stagnant, crucial strikes such as Detroit are smashed, and dues money continues to pour into the coffers of the Democratic Party. The global context has radically changed over the last two decades. As capital moves freely around the world, ready to exploit labor wherever it may be cheapest, corporations in the United States are confronting their workforce with the alternative of an endless series of givebacks or escalating confrontations. Sweeney recognizes the force of the employer offensive. He has even been willing to adopt some of the rhetoric and tactics that characterized the social movements of the 1960s.

Yet Sweeney and the AFL-CIO progressive union leaders have arrived with far too little too late. Corporations scent blood. Symbolic actions, blustery speeches, threats and bluffs, all count for very little. The class struggle in the 1990s is sharply defined. Either working people will act in unison to defend their rights, or wages and working conditions will continue to spiral downward. The choices are stark. In the here and now, the entire array of union bureaucrats presents yet another obstacle to union militancy, one that has to be confronted and surmounted.

The course of the Detroit strike demonstrates this all too clearly. Throughout the nineteen month strike the newspaper workers stood solid, joining demonstrations, getting arrested, presenting the need for solidarity to other workers. For months the workers lobbied the AFL-CIO to organize a nationwide march on Detroit, and for months they were met with indifference and excuses. Now, with the strike ended, Sweeney and the executive board have finally agreed to sponsor a rally. While Wobblies should

be there in force on June 20, the rally is much too late to have much of an impact.

The strikers needed the militant participation of Detroit area auto workers, in the streets and prepared to block the scab delivery trucks. Yokich and the UAW leadership gave verbal support to the strike, and Yokich even participated in picket lines at the newspaper offices. Nevertheless, the union apparatus did nothing to energize the ranks. Once again, the support was purely symbolic, and thus essentially meaningless.

The UAW was once in the forefront of the union movement. When the union first organized the auto plants in the late 1930s, political strikes were called, shutting down the multitude of plants in southeastern Michigan area for the duration of massive rallies. After World War II, these brief general strikes were again set into motion. In April 1947, 250,000 workers demonstrated to protest the impending passage of the Taft-Hartley Act. When General Motors proceeded to discipline local leaders taking part in the shutdowns, the union leadership began to crumble. Walter Reuther, then UAW president, agreed to forego any future political strikes, and, lo and behold, relations with GM began to improve.

Thus the auto workers have a history of strikes that go beyond the immediate concern of the auto industry. The newspapers workers needed their help. Touching base with the union's militant past, plants throughout the Detroit area should have been closed on specified days, paving the way for gigantic demonstrations aimed at blocking the scab papers. The impact of such an action would have been enormous. Working people everywhere would have seen the implicit power in solidarity. Instead, the UAW provided only token support, and the newspaper workers were left to dry.

It was not only the AFL-CIO and the UAW that failed to meet the test. Of the six local unions on strike, two of them, the largest, were Teamster locals. Furthermore, the Teamsters represents more than a million workers, many of them in the trucking industry. By controlling the flow of cargo, the Teamsters could have provided crucial assistance to their brothers in Detroit. Deliveries could have been disrupted to any corporation placing advertisements in the scab papers. The streets of Detroit could have been clogged by thousands of semis slowly circling the scab plants. Indeed the Teamsters had the wherewithal to organize a nationwide march on Detroit on their own, bypassing the AFL-CIO bureaucracy. Instead the Teamster leadership did little to nothing. Ron Carey had been elected president as part of a reform slate, pledged to a new, more militant union. Furthermore,

## More help for CEOs

Those of you who were out celebrating the news that pay for CEOs rose a whopping 55% last year may have missed a smaller item about another side of executive compensation—moving expenses. Newly hired company presidents often face tremendous expenses moving from one city to another. That is why they are given relocation expenses. For example, new Banker Trust CEO Frank Newman was given \$1.1 million to cover expenses in moving from Washington DC to New York while Times Mirror CEO Mark Whiles was paid a "housing differential allowance" of \$871,855 to cover the difference in costs between Minneapolis and Los Angeles. The expense is all worthwhile, declares Sears VP Bernard Brosky, because "Making their lives pleasant and giving them what they want is a necessary situation." Words of wisdom.

— Newspeak

## Tracking the boss's pay

Executive Pay Watch is a new web site listing data for 96 companies, and offering quick calculations of how many years you would have to work to make the CEO's 1996 pay. (The calculations to show how many years the Haitian workers who make pajamas for the Walt Disney Company would have to work to pay Michael Eisner's \$204.2 million would require to much computing power.) <<http://www.paywatch.org>> United for a Fair Economy offers extensive details of CEO pay on its share the wealth site, and is one of the few to attempt to put the information into some sort of context in terms of what CEO pay says about our society <<http://www.stw.org>> And of course, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission posts corporate filing on-line that feature extensive material <<http://www.sec.gov>> even if it's not always organized in the most user-friendly way.

Teamsters for a Democratic Union, the archetypical union reform group, had helped Carey to gain power, and continues to provide him with virtually uncritical support. Still, for all of the illusion of change, nothing was done to win the Detroit strike.

Indeed last summer top union leaders began secretly discussing a plan to end the strike. This fall, as Carey sought reelection in a hotly contested campaign, he neither explained how he would win the Detroit strike nor did he reveal the ongoing discussions to end it. Once the election was over, and the votes counted, Carey joined two other international presidents in unilaterally ending the strike with an unconditional offer to return to work. This decision was not only made without consulting the rank and file, but over its adamant objection.

The Detroit newspaper strike could have been won, but it would have taken a total commitment. Instead the entire union leadership, from Sweeney to Yokich to Carey, sat back, allowed it to reach a stalemate, and then ended it over the head of the workers. We need to build opposition networks committed to a vision of radical social change and to a strategy of direct action, opposition networks of dissidents organized to contest the entire spectrum of union officials, from conservative to progressive. The IWW can become a focal point in the coordination and organization of a forceful and militant opposition. The opportunity is there, we need to grasp it.

— Eric Chester

## Campaign for Health Reform

The Southeast Michigan Branch has helped launch a local coalition, Citizens for Quality Health Care, to demand a health care system controlled by workers and the community, and structured to meet our needs. Other coalition members include the Interfaith Council, Jobs With Justice, Physicians for Quality Care and several local unions.



# Oil Workers' Union faces persecution

Fourteen Colombian unionists are being held in jail on trumped-up charges, and threatened with long jail terms. The treasurer of the Workers' Trade Union, USO (Union Sindical Obrera), Cesar Carrillo, has issued a statement condemning the persecution of Colombian unionists. In the last seven years, the union has had to bury more than 70 members, murdered by hired assassins who appear "by chance" when the union is in intense bargaining over its demands or in a struggle to block privatization of the state oil enterprise, Ecopetrol.

Fourteen USO members were detained on December 5, 1996. Cesar Carrillo was detained by forces of the Public Prosecutor when he left the company headquarters after ending a round of talks with the management of Ecopetrol. They have now been in prison for more than three months, accused of "rebellion" and "terrorism."

Pedro Chaporro, one of the national USO leaders who has been detained, was sentenced on February 11 to seven years in prison on the charges. The sentence was handed down the same day that 850,000 Colombian public sector workers launched a general strike that lasted 174 hours. The result was a success for the trade union movement.

## Let's Stop the Massacre and Genocide Against Unionism!

As time passes, the accusations continue ... against the USO. It is three months that they have detained 14 oil workers; three months of vile accusations and public ridicule. Faceless justice has positioned us as individuals undesirable to society, of having caused great damage to the economy of the country....

We are accused of being a narcoterrorist band, delegitimizing the legal and trade-union character of the USO, placing us in the sights of the military and the treatment that is given, according to the state, to the narcoterrorist organizations.

They disregard 74 years of union history, of unflagging union and political struggle, of contributing to the creation and consolidation of Ecopetrol, of leading strikes that shaped the history of the union movement. All this in the light of day...

Meanwhile, succeeding governments raffle off and give away our wealth, receiving the scraps that are left, become fervent defenders of the interests of and agreements with the multinationals... They have been making war on the USO for many years. There are killings, forced exile, jailings, and threats, and the investigations about these

facts have no results. On the contrary, it is the workers themselves who are condemned and judged. That is, State-sponsored impunity is the dominant note.

We find ourselves facing a regime with all the characteristics of Fascism, which persecutes and humbles the workers, but kneels down, humiliates and prostrates itself before the North American leaders...

The national and international union movement, the Human Rights organisations in Colombia and in the world must know that we: Marcelo Buitrago, Felipe Mendoza, Guillermo Cardenas, Monerge Sanchez, Rafael Estupinan, Hernan Vallejo, Leonardo Diaz, Reinel Sanchez, Edgar Riano, Francisco Cadena, Leonardo Mosquea, Alvaro Solano, Jorge Estupinan, Fabio Lievano and Cesar Carrillo are innocent...

— Cesar Carrillo

Treasurer, Union Sindical Obrera

## Madison picket hits bank

Madison Wobs joined dozens of local activists picketing Firststar's downtown bank to protest the bank's shorting homeless programs of some \$40,000 supposed to be paid from interest on real estate escrow accounts. The Madison Branch banner dominated a photo of the action in the local daily.

## REBEL MEMORIES

Raised in Minersville, on the Pennsylvania anthracite coal belt, Michael Kozura died as a result of a car accident in February 1996, while returning to his home in Ohio from a visit to the area. He had never really moved far from the area. Working on a book about bootleg miners of the 1930's at the time of his death, Michael was a former member of the General Executive Board and a Wobly in good standing for many a year. Always ready to learn, he was also willing to question himself, even years after the fact.

Hours before his accident, Mike had dropped by my house, where we covered a variety of topics. He talked of life in Youngstown, where drive-by shootings are all too common, and how he would stay outside doing yard work, saying "They're down the block, I don't have to worry yet," while his wife Ingrid would be telling him to come inside.

"I don't want to live in fear," Mike said.

"That's fine," I replied, "but it's good to know when to duck."

I then reminded him of an incident almost 25 years ago. We were fishing at a dam outside Minersville, up at the end on a small peninsula where a stream fed the dam. Not being as observant as we should, sunset crept up on us, moving us to quickly gather our equipment, as twilight time meant hunting time for the wild dogs that roamed the surrounding forest. We were not quick enough.

In the laurel bushes across the stream we heard a growl. Then a dog jumped from the laurel into the water and started swimming across. There was only one skimpy tree on our spit of land, which Mike scurried up, leaving me to stand by the water's edge waiting with a sapling in my left hand and a hatchet in my right.

At this point in the story Mike jumped in and asked, "Was I wrong? Should I have stayed down with you?"

"Hell no," I said, "You did the smart thing. You got out of the way."

Michael thought about this. "Yeah, you're probably right. Maybe I scared the dog away by climbing the tree."

While the dog did turn around mid-stream and swim back, allowing us an opportunity to escape, I doubt that seeing Mike up a tree brought this about, but who knows?

One time we did not escape hap-

pened during the largest mass arrest in American history, Mayday 1971. Michael, myself and another high school classmate traveled to Washington on May 3rd to observe an anti-war protest designed by the Yippies to shut the city down. We were three seniors who had that Monday off after participating in the school production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, and wanted to see the living theatre of our time. For our first show we wound up with excellent seats ... unfortunately.

As we walked from our car that morning a grey car hopped the curb several yards ahead, and a grey suited man jumped out with a wooden club and proceeded to beat a group of protesters on the sidewalk. Further on, through the haze of tear gas, we saw a purple dye marker drop on the lawn of the Washington Monument, followed shortly by the helicopters disgorging armed troops. In the midst of this insanity we had an early brunch by the reflecting pools of homemade bread, wine and cheese.

When we resumed our tour it seemed that there were fewer people around, and we decided not to find out what was going on, but to get back to the car and leave. Now, if you look at the back of a ten dollar bill you'll find the Treasury building, front and side view, and it was just as we were coming down that side view to the front that what was going on came to us. Several cops on mini-scooters surrounded us on the sidewalk. Then a rent-a-van with a cage door pulled up and we were shoved in with a half-dozen others and transported to the D.C. Jail court yard, where several thousand had preceded us.

In our thirteen and a half hours of incarceration we managed to stay together. Among our fellow detainees were a Time magazine reporter, a middle-aged woman who had gone out for groceries, and a man out walking his dog. They arrested the dog, too.

In the evening we were photographed, fingerprinted, and transferred to a suburban jail for processing. There we were placed six to a one man cell. With us was one of the Georgetown students who had been dragged out of class, filling up a pocket notebook with his experiences. A sheriff sauntered by and grabbed the pad, looked at it, then threw it back, saying, "This won't help you any, boy."

By one in the morning we were back on the street, having paid ten dollars recognition bail on disorderly charges, with a

parting taunt that if we "don't get off the streets, you'll probably get picked up again." With that incentive, we found a cab, got to our car, and drove.

Twelve years later, the Supreme Court having found a few constitutional violations, the money was returned and the records ordered destroyed, though I suspect a copy may have been kept, just as a souvenir.

It was a souvenir that Michael had picked up that got attention a year later. The two of us went to Miami for the '72 Republican convention, though I came back a day before Mike. On the final day he participated in the demonstrations, ran through the gas fogged streets, and hid in a hotel basement to avoid arrest. Figuring it was time to leave, he got back to Flamingo Park for his gear and started walking out through the back streets. Being a 19-year-old from the coal regions, Mike picked up a coconut to carry back home. So it came to pass that as he continued on, a grey car pulled up, two grey men stepped out and pointed two grey guns at him saying, "Drop That Coconut!"

He did.

The two men proceeded to play with Mike's head.

"What do you think we should do with him? Should we take him out and drop him in the everglades with the others, huh?"

"Nah, he doesn't look big enough. Not worth the trouble."

So they left him. Any resemblance between their conversation and the Huston Plan is purely coincidental.

I don't remember what happened to the coconut, and the chance to find out has now passed. Michael's influence, however, has not passed, and the motivation he provided to others has not faded. At the bar on the evening after the funeral service it was noted, "Michael's up organizing heaven now."

"No," came the reply. "He's up there getting others to do the organizing."

— by John M. Furphy

The Michael Kozura Labor Solidarity Education Fund has been started to continue his work and vision. Contributions should be made out to Ingrid Kock, not-ing for LSEF, and mailed to:

Ingrid Kock  
377 Redondo  
Youngstown, OH 44504

## Slave labor at Burger King

War has been declared by jobless claimants on Burger King and parent company Grand Metropolitan Trust. Burger King is the only national firm presently implicated in England's slave labour Project Work. Grand Met has long been known for its activities in so-called training programs for the unemployed, which actually constitute barely paid labour.

Project Work goes one better, forcing workers to work for free to gain "work experience." Apart from Grand Met, Edinburgh Claimant's Group reports that other culprits in the Project Work racket include: Instant Muscle, The Training Network, Career Ahead and East Yorkshire County Council who have been paying the jobless £10 plus benefits to paint the railings on the seafront at an East Coast resort.

In New York, where these types of schemes have been introduced already, subway workers were sacked and replaced by dole conscripts.

Project Work is to be forced on all those unemployed for over two years. All such claimants will be made to do 13 weeks compulsory work to keep their benefits.

Sixteen groups from across the country turned up for the Groundswell conference to organize resistance to the attacks on unemployed workers. The London Dockers Support Group sent a speaker and the conference was addressed by a group of London textile workers in Tottenham who are occupying their factory.

— Freedom

## Sweatshop code

A task force set up by United States President Bill Clinton has finalized a "voluntary code" to sanction sweatshop products that meet agreed-upon minimum working conditions. The agreement between the U.S. government, corporations, human-rights organizations and business unions, creates a special non-union label for products assembled in certified sweatshops. The deal prohibits the use of forced or child labor, bans harassment or abuse of workers, requires a safe and healthy workplace, guarantees freedom of association and collective bargaining and sets standards for wages and hours of work.

A leader of the New York City-based Chinese Staff and Workers Association criticized the deal as continuing the historical problem of bosses promising humanity but continuing wage-slavery. In New York City, supposedly strong labor laws co-exist with 2,000 sweatshops where workers slave away for 12 hours a day at only \$3 to \$4 an hour.

A vice-president of the business-union UNITE (Union of Needletrades and Industrial Textile Employees) praised the agreement for recognizing major corporations' responsibility for contracting shops all over the world. The union was unable to win the guarantee a "living wage" for workers at certified sweatshops. Instead, workers are supposed to make "a minimum or prevailing wage." The code will not be implemented for at least another six months, during which time the task force will discuss enforcement and practice.

## More temporary workers

The number of U.S. workers working temp jobs averaged 2.3 million a day last year, up 7 percent from 1995. Total revenue to the job sharks rose 11.2 percent to \$43.6 billion. But median wages are 25 percent less than for permanent workers in the same jobs, and few temps get benefits. A shortage of qualified workers willing to take temp jobs at the prevailing wages and conditions meant that many temp jobs go unfilled each day. Somehow, the thought of raising wages never occurs to the sharks, though.



# Russian workers face deep crisis

On the news yesterday there was an ordinary Albanian man. The journalists asked him what they were doing. Were they making a revolution, a riot, or what? He simply replied that they had been the victims of shock therapy for years and now they were employing the method of shock therapy in reverse against the authorities.

Although our slogan "Albania is just the beginning" was wildly popular at today's so-called strike, there was so little action, indeed so little promise for it, that the whole thing was even worse than the pessimists could have predicted. With the FNPR hoping to get 20 million people out on the streets, they perhaps drew only two million. The mood was very defeatist; the cues were taken from the sell-out unions.

About 100,000 people turned out in Moscow, but it seemed like, aside from the unionists, most people just came to get leaflets and papers; it was possible to spread more than 1000 leaflets per 15 minutes, the people rushed to you to get them. The radical elements obviously had no interest in listening to the trade union bureaucrats and yelled curses at those carrying the blue Moscow Trade Union Federation banner. But although there were a considerable number of people geared towards more radical politics than the bureaucrats had to offer, there was no feeling of tension in the crowd, no feeling that something could happen. It is clear that the people had the number of the FNPR, understood that the whole thing was just a show and didn't even bother to get excited about the whole thing. And of course that's probably for the best; there were lots of snipers training their guns on us and the Dzerzhinsky division was hidden parked underneath the bridge.

So much for the farce.

The press, naturally, played a part in quelling the demonstration; as soon as the people understood that the demo was rigged, they reacted very differently to the whole event. A critical article written by one of our comrades was the lead story in the *Independent* today; it basically told why the FNPR is not defending the workers' interests and its dependence on cooperation with the government to protect its property.

## The Albanian example

Radical Kievan anarchists were arrested March 19 at a union demonstration. A group of 10 activists called upon the people to "follow the example of the Albanians." They were quickly arrested. The demonstration was held to demand back wages. Many people in the Ukraine haven't been paid for

many months and the average salary is well below a survival minimum.

## Demanding their due

In other news, a group of radical pensioners have taking up a regular Tuesday ritual. Every Tuesday since Dec. 3 they've been blocking the railroad from Moscow to Leningrad.

The Tver Pensioners' Initiative Group was at first successful. They haven't been made their meagre pensions in months and they were paid at least one month's worth after their first blockade. Now they are feeling the wrath of the system. Last week the especially angry protestors held up the trains for five hours because they were pissed at Yeltsin new appointment of Chubais. About 10 riot squad vans showed up creating a tense atmosphere.

The Moscow Railway Police (yes, we *do* have a police squad for *everything*) has started criminal proceedings against the group. But these old timers are not stupid. They figure that it would be better to block the highway from now on anyway. After all, it's the poor who ride on trains and they want to get on the nerves of the rich.

Also in the city of Tver — teachers who had called a warning strike in February have gone on strike for real. Teachers in twelve schools walked out and more are likely to follow. Teachers are owed more than \$1.6 million in back wages (9 billion roubles), more than half a year's pay.

Norilsk miners are threatening to go on strike. The union's demands are interesting as they demand not only the payment of wage arrears but the disclosure of accounts, social benefits, removal of two plant officials, the declaring of the region as a catastrophe zone, a profit-sharing agreement, union participation in the distribution of funds from the tax sale of the company (don't be naive) and others. The company, one of the hottest on the stock markets, owes its workers \$158 million. It also owes 1.4 trillion roubles in taxes to Moscow and 900 billion to Krasnoyarsk. Unions are calling for the sale of seized metals worth 600 billion roubles.

Production figures are considered "state secrets" in Russia. Still it is estimated that the company produced 10 percent of the world's platinum last year and about 30% of its palladium.

The problems in Norilsk are often highlighted by a complete lack of information on the real financial status of the company. Such problems are now bound to get worse in Russia thanks to a new presidential de-

cree with will punish anyone who discloses "private information."

The decree took effect on March 6 and is supposed to, as the government puts it, protect human rights. (What are those people in the Kremlin on anyway?) It lists six categories of information as confidential, including "information in individuals" and "commercial secrets." Publishing information about the earnings and spendings of the government thieves is, in effect verboten. As we understand it, this is a measure to completely eliminate freedom of the press the expose government corruption.

Government corruption, as developed as it is in Russia, is hard to expose. Last month a transcript of a conversation implicated Chubais in a cover-up of an investigation of some people who were caught taking \$500,000 out of the White House. (They always seem to catch people taking large sums of money out of there. The teachers should probably storm it and look for their back pay.) Also some of his bank statements were published. This is now a no-no.

What is obviously not a no-no is the fact that high-level members of the government steal so much money and are rewarded for it and immune from prosecution. (You have to take over the White House to land up in Lefortovo.) As Chubais' statements clearly show, he has a lot more money than he can or did account for.

It is of course increasingly clear that the Albanian method is the only course of action for the Russian people. And millions of people are watching their TV sets every night, cheering the riots and insurrections of the world. Watch out Yeltsin. Maybe people will get the idea. Then even Nemtsov won't be able to save you all.

## Another general strike?

The infamous FNPR (the Rosemary's baby of trade union federations) called yet another nationwide strike March 27. This is getting boring already. I mean, how many fucking strikes are these bureaucrat, elite government wannabes gonna call? OK, general strike, yeah it's great when the people are engaged, organized, willing to fight the system, but these strikes, they're there just to convince the workers that the FNPR cares, which they really don't. They keep striking and striking and still nobody gets paid. What is this shit?

"The government is bankrupt." Yeah, right. They have stolen enough money to pay the workers twice over and there's proof of it, proof in the banks of Cyprus, on the London real estate market — but they're not



going to tell you. As a matter of fact, there's even proof that the FNPR has a big stash in Cyprus, but that's for another article. The workers don't need this fake general strike — they need a real strike, an honest to goodness workers' action.

This workers' action of course must be aimed against the trade union bureaucrats as well, those that sit on the tri-partite commission and sign pacts with Yeltsin guaranteeing cooperation. It's high time to stop *asking* the government to pay them and to *take* what is owed in the form of *expropriation*.

The following should be immediately seized: all production of raw materials and its products; all foreign automobiles worth more than \$20,000; all military installations, especially at Odintsovo west of Moscow and Bakailnur and other space centers (control of directional satellites; Ostankino and Shabolovskaya TV towers; all homes and dachas located on Rublevskoye Shosse (favourite for government officials); all housing complexes for Duma deputies and other members of government; local telephone stations; all private schools with tuition in excess of \$2500; all building housing banks and corporations and any site built on the order of Mayor Luzhkov; that new Duma building (House of Dummies or whatever they call it), all diplomatic buildings belonging to the "banker nations" (USA, UK, Cyprus, Switzerland, etc.) and just about anything which is there for the rich. (Which means, basically, just about anything. What fun!)

Get with it workers! You are being taken for a ride! What — you can't figure it out? Retirement age is now raised to 65 and the average life expectancy for men is 57? You're gonna slave for some rich assholes to put gold bathtub faucets in their house until you die? You gonna listen to the lies again? Where's your sense of possibility? You all know they're robbing you blind. Do something about it and fuck the union's fake strikes. It's complete sabotage or nothing! Screw the system — while you still can.

— Akai

"The workers' flag is blackest black  
The red one's just for bureaucrats."

## Call for Robeson Stamp

April 9, 1998, marks the 100th anniversary of civil rights and labor activist Paul Robeson. A grassroots campaign is calling on the post office to issue a commemorative stamp — certainly a more worthy proposal than the recent spate of advertising stamps. Letters supporting a Robeson stamp can be sent to: Dr. Virginia Noelke, Chairman, Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW Room 4474, Washington DC 20260-2437.

## INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

ST. LOUIS BRANCH

In the spirit of our late Wob brother Robert Tibbs, we would like to invite all our Fellow Wobs to meet us in St. Louis for the 1997 IWW National Convention on Labor Day Weekend. We'll share some good times with music and a play, as well as an opportunity to meet Fellow Wobs from all points of the country.

The Wobs of St. Louis would also like to take this opportunity to express our undying gratitude to Robert Rheingold. Through good times and bad, Robert has always stood shoulder to shoulder with us. He has not only marched and demonstrated with us for the cause of the worker, but being an attorney has given of his legal time to help Fellow Wobs in need. Because of a technicality, he cannot be an official member of the IWW, but in our hearts Robert Reinhold is and always will be a Fellow Wob.



# March for farm workers' rights

Watsonville only has a population of 30,000. Workers added another 30,000 to that number April 13 when they came to this small burg located about 40 miles south of San Jose, California.

A lot of strawberry workers live in Watsonville. So, the workers and the place became the focus of the solidarity demonstration. Wobblies were there, of course. Class solidarity is basic practice for the IWW. Other groups and unions were there too: Teamsters, SEIU, Nurses, Teachers, the usual array of Democrats, social-democrats, Lenninist sects, and a handful of wing-nuts calling for the exoneration of Lyndon LaRouche.

Speakers on the podium included at least one strawberry worker, Jose Rojas, who told his fellow workers, "I have worked in the fields for 17 years and I want to tell you that I've never received a pay raise."

When one considers the fact that the agri-capitalists of California make \$576 million selling the product of Rojas's and his fellow wage-slaves' labor, and that these 20,000 proles get \$170 million to divide among themselves about \$8,500 per season, you can see that this a lucrative business.

The UFW leadership is pushing the concept that workers can be paid higher, living wages if consumers just consent to pay 5 cents more per basket of berries. By laying the workers demands on the consumers, the UFW leadership is probably trying to pre-empt the petit-bourgeois critics who claim that some of the cockroach capitalists among their number (600 or so), may have to bite the bullet and go under, if the workers

get something besides bum pay. Of course, the IWW would rather focus on the wages system of legalized robbery; but we were there to be in solidarity with farm workers, not to tell them what to do or to lead them to paradise. Those there fronting for the Virgin of Guadalupe and/or the various and sundry vanguards of the proletariat had that onerous job.

Being there was like being at a great festival. There were Wobs attending from as far away as Detroit (Larry a newspaper striker) and as close as Santa Cruz. Some Wobs helped the anarchist puppet brigade support their enormous 12 foot high effigies of agri-capitalists and politicians like Pete Wilson. In addition there were Aztec dancers, Irish bagpipers, semi rap/salsa musicians, Korean drummers and more. As we marched through the streets of Watsonville shouting out everything from Si se puede to

## Christmas dinner

A French comrade spoke in Baltimore April 10 and mentioned this interesting incident which occurred in Paris recently:

An organized group of about 50 unemployed people walked into an upscale supermarket in a suburb of Paris, sat down in the aisles and began having an impromptu Christmas dinner, opening up champagne bottles, caviar tins etc. and eating the contents. The security guards were caught off guard and called the police who evicted the occupiers but without making arrests.

Needless to say, the action was ignored by the media. — Curtis Price

Revolution, we met only one small gaggle of employing class stooges—about 20 people—telling us, the 30,000, that we were liars or worse, victims of liars. As usual the pro-capitalist cronies had it bassackwards.

No doubt about it, workers made history in Watsonville. As FW Rojas said, "I want to tell all my brothers and sisters and all of my fellow farm workers that this is enough!" Right on bro. Now, let's take that righteous indignation out in the fields and at least take back *some* more of the product of our labor, in the form of wages and working conditions by getting organized, strong and demanding.

— X334260

## Action for welfare rights

Student activists in coalition with the Kensington Welfare Rights Union in Philadelphia took direct action against welfare "reform" March 10. They backed up an activist who was threatened with loss of welfare benefits unless she would either "prove" domestic violence or provide the name of her child's father (which might have let him know where she is).

The activist refused to sign a new "Contract of Mutual Responsibility" because the contract was not actually mutual and thus unfair. The state does not offer people on welfare a living-wage job, child care, health care or transportation.

The state's response was to cut off her benefits for one month and threaten "lifetime sanction." The group then blockaded the office until they were forcibly removed by security. Three people were arrested.

## Workers solidarity in Euro-strike...

*continued from page 1*

go on. They'll say, 'Let's shut down a factory in Belgium, because it's a small country, and we'll have no trouble with them.'

Renault clearly had not anticipated having to deal with labor actions that would involve the whole European continent.

A pamphlet given to Renault workers in Spain by the company defended the Vilvorde plant closure by promising more work and job security. The workers in Spain, savvy enough to know that an injury to one is an injury to all, ignored the propaganda and joined the strike.

The union piecards are scrambling, Renault is sweating, and the EU has begun drafting a "code of conduct" for international businesses. It's easy to see that when workers show solidarity "direct action gets the goods" is more than just a slogan.

There is a lesson here for all the workers in the USA who would hurt other members of the working class for the hollow promise of job security. Don't do it! If we all stick together we can all have a better life.

My hat is off to these workers and to the kind of solidarity that will make them the winners of the Euro-strike. GO GET'EM Euro-workers.

— Tom Johnson, X346299

## Delta settles dispute

On April 4 the German transport workers' union OTV forced Delta Air Lines to reach an agreement on the future of employees at Frankfurt airport hit by restructuring plans. Delta's refusal to talk had triggered a range of protests including a hunger strike.

## Manifesto for the Convocation of the 2nd Intercontinental Meeting:

# For A World Which Contains All Worlds

We live in a period when human relations are intensely colonized. Everywhere the same social system subjects humanity to the law of money and homogenizes life, generating poverty and devastation. Faced with the ruins inflicted by this relentless machine, resistances arise from other ways of life, yet these seem condemned to isolation. The time has come to break the vicious circle which prevents humanity from bringing together its unease, its struggles and the will for change.

In Mexico the armed revolt of the indigenous community of Chiapas, organized by the EZLN, has opened the way towards a different future for us all. Since 1 January 1994 the imaginative struggle of the Zapatistas has spurred people worldwide to create alternatives to neoliberalism. Their initiatives have been created outside the bounds of traditional institutional politics and always seek to involve the greatest possible numbers, especially among marginalized people.

In this spirit the First Intercontinental Meeting for Humanity and Against Neoliberalism was organized in August 1996, hosted by five indigenous communities in Chiapas, despite the military occupation and siege by the Mexican Federal Army. The first Encuentro attracted more than three thousand people from 43 countries in five

continents. They gained the opportunity to meet each other, to reflect and express themselves, in an unprecedented act of solidarity.

These participants dared to cross the threshold opened by the Zapatistas and sought to cross to the other side of the looking-glass. There everyone could be equal, precisely because they succeed in being different, so that various ways of life co-exist, all joined in rejecting the present system with the desire to construct a world which includes many worlds—the 'humanity' of which we speak.

Everywhere there are people who are fed up with the dominant values, who seek to change their own lives, to open new spaces and construct a more dignified present. Everywhere there are willing accomplices desiring to live an adventure. To achieve this, it is worth extending the Chiapas initiative and creating the network of resistance which was proposed by the first Encuentro: 'An international network of resistance in which people help each other, a network without an organized structure, without a central command, without a hierarchy. A network comprising all those who resist.'

For all those aims we announce the next Encuentro: 2nd Intercontinental Meeting For Humanity And Against Neoliberalism 26th July - 2nd August 1997 in Spain.

We want a meeting of all struggles against neoliberalism, of all people (organized or not) who feel discontented with the life that is imposed upon us.

We want to create a meeting which emphasizes the exchange of ideas, practices and desires—beyond the formal conclusions and resolutions.

We want a self-organized meeting, where the people who participate create the meeting themselves, getting involved in the preparatory tasks in working groups which take on the practical tasks which make the meeting possible. This organizational process is as important as the meeting itself.

We want a meeting which offers everyone the possibility of experimenting with new forms of politics. We want to learn how to open new self-organized political spaces.

We want to break with our own limits and the barriers—informational, political and cultural—which keep us apart.

We want everyone, both men and women, to learn how to walk together and master our own lives.

And we want to speak with all those interested in making possible this Second Intercontinental Meeting for Humanity and Against Neoliberalism.

For further information and contact details for groups in your own country: Colectivo de Solidaridad con la Rebelion Zapatista, Calle de la Cera 1, bis ES-08001, Barcelona Spain. Tel. +34-3-442 21 01 fax +34-3-329 08 58 E-mail [ellokal@pangea.org](mailto:ellokal@pangea.org)

Web page for advance planning and future details of the Encuentro: <http://www.pangea.org/encuentro/>

## Support the Locked-Out Detroit Newspaper Workers

March on Detroit, June 20 - 21

Tell Gannett and Knight-Ridder  
Labor will no longer tolerate Union Busting

## Tell Big Labor

Rank-and-file workers will no longer tolerate their timid no-win policies.

An Injury to One is an Injury to All!

Southeast Michigan General Membership Branch

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Hour Day  
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# Indian Ocean Dockers Conference

While the locked-out Liverpool dockers have focussed their efforts on building solidarity links in Europe and North America, with the notable exception of Australia and New Zealand, they had the imagination to see themselves in a worldwide fight against the global problems of deregulation, privatisation and casualisation of the industry.

Soon after Japanese dockers joined the international day of action in January and Brazilian dockers made contact, a new group of allies emerged at the 4th Indian Ocean Regional Trade Union Conference, held in Calcutta 17-22 February.

Over 70 delegates from Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, South Korea, Kazakhstan, Mauritius, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Pakistan, South Africa, Thailand, Turkmenistan and Vietnam joined about 150 Indian delegates for a week. Liverpool stewards Terry Teague and Jimmy Davies Jr. attended as observers.

Terry had never witnessed the extremes of poverty or the street life of a world underdeveloped by Britain and other imperial powers. He found it hard to believe that workers who had to be smuggled out of their country to reach Calcutta or faced anti-trade union laws backed up by guns and starvation, would identify with the Liverpool dockers. But the same privatisation programmes and anti-trade union legislation pioneered in Britain since 1979, following IMF restrictions on public sector spending from 1975, run rampant around the world. Terry and Jimmy were delighted the delegates "identified strongly with us as workers in struggle and saw South Korea and Liverpool as evidence that their own resistance is global."

"We went to the Seamen and Dock-

## Brazilian dockers fight casualization

As we go to press, Brazilian police have stormed two ships in the port of Santos that had been occupied by dockworkers, arresting 25 workers. Hundreds of other dock workers are surrounding the port compound in a tense face-off with military police, and a general stoppage has closed the port. Dockers across Brazil are reportedly considering joining a general strike to support the Santos dockers' fight against casualization.

A San Paulo-based steel company has begun employing non-registered dock labor at its terminal at Santos. This provoked a strike by unions at the port and an occupation of two ships, the Marcos Dias and the Vancouver, attempting to use the terminal.

Three workers were injured in a fight with military police April 5, and the company has a court order authorising use of the army to break the occupation. The COSIPA steel company asked April 7 that the army be brought in to clear the occupation.

The union issued a statement the next day noting that: "The workers on board the vessels Marcos Dias and Vancouver are at their posts of work, defending them and demanding work. If force is used, whether by the Military Police or the Army, it would be the first time that armed force was employed in order to take workers from their posts, in a perverse and ironic inversion of what always occurs in strikes."

"The workers are not against modernization... What the workers wish is that such a process not be imposed and without negotiation, but with time to take into account the enormous social liabilities which it would represent."

The union also objects to the extremely favorable tax treatment (about one-tenth the rate paid by union firms) COSIPA receives, helping it to undercut union dockers.

workers hut in South Calcutta where Terry, speaking through an interpreter, addressed about 400 men lining the driveway," Jimmy recounts. "The Indian seamen know Liverpool because animal feeds, fertiliser, iron ore and chemicals are shipped to the UK through the Huskisson and Birkenhead docks. They will discuss the potential for action."

The conferences were initiated in 1988 through a joint effort by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), the Western Australia Labour Council and others, in the knowledge that transnational corporations were seizing the economies of South East Asia. It was a far-sighted move at a time when the apartheid regime remained in power. Back then, Australian wharfies were boycotting South Africa and Liverpool dockers were blockading exports from British Nuclear Fuels whose uranium had come from Namibia and South Africa.

Recently COSATU has intervened to support the Maritime Union of Australia, under siege since the election of a "Liberal" government pledged to break the power of the MUA. When the Western Australia state government threatened to sequester the union and victimise individuals during a fight over a new terminal for Coca-Cola, COSATU boycotted ships and told the Melbourne authorities that even at the height of repression in South Africa, they "never had to put up with laws like yours."

Delegates reported that employment in the Indian ports has fallen from 300,000 to 90,000 through containerisation, natural wastage and the use of sub-contractors. While the 11 major ports remain government controlled and strongly unionised, there is no union in the small ports. Middlemen hiring companies are growing while port owners retreat into a landlord role with a general lack of investment in maintenance and infrastructure.

In Nepal, road transport is mainly in private hands, with high staff turnover of casual employees suffering many accidents. The drivers lack insurance or compensation schemes. Casual workers in Australian ports enjoy the same base rate of pay as the core labour force, but are given incentives to reduce their pay rates. Some casuals are guaranteed two days/week, while others are hired day to day. Full privatisation of telecommunication is feared, through the government has settled on selling 1/3 for now.

Delegates agreed that casualisation was being used as a wedge to divide the union movement, and must be fought with demands for a minimum wage. The increase in working hours not only risked workers health but threatened public safety. The ideology of privatisation would have to be challenged through a wide ranging political debate.

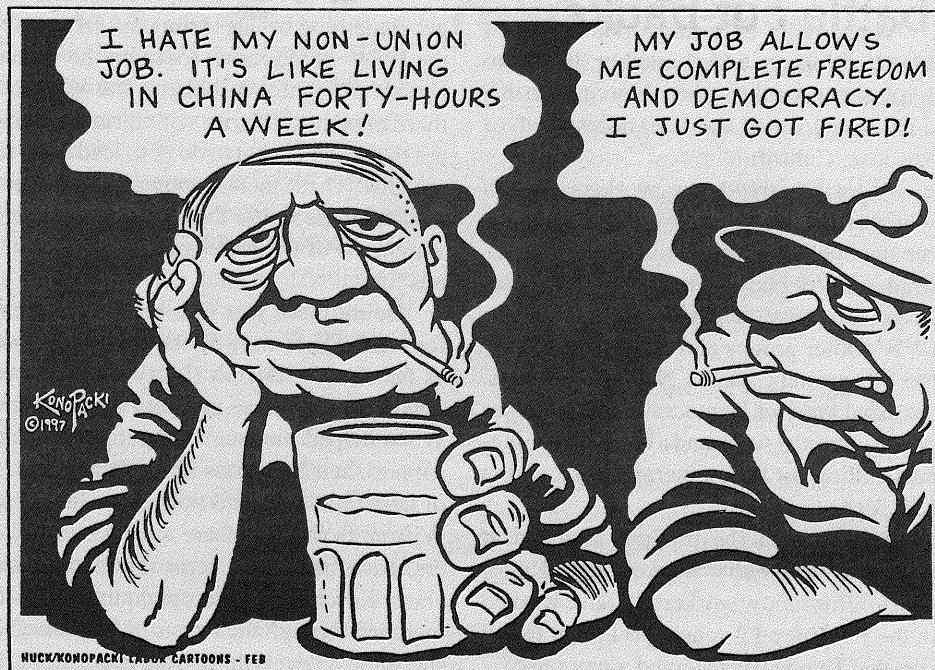
## Japanese dockers refuse night work

Dock workers across Japan began night-time strikes March 31 to demand better working conditions and protest U.S. pressure to open the Japanese stevedoring business to greater competition.

The strikes were called by the 50,000-member National Council of Dockworkers' Unions of Japan, and were expected to affect the six largest ports in the country, including Yokohama, Kobe and Osaka, as well as half of the 96 ports nationwide.

Workers will refuse to load or unload cargo between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m. every day until their demands are met. The ports normally operate 24 hours a day.

The unions are demanding better working conditions and higher pay and protesting plans by the government to loosen regulations on the port industry.



## Mersey Dockers Update

On Sunday, 23rd March, the International Steering Committee set up in February 1996 to protect dockworkers the world over, met to discuss future strategy in support of the Liverpool fight and also draw up an Agenda for the next full International Dockworkers Conference, to be held in Montreal May 25th to 30th.

A lengthy debate took place over the proposals for the sacked Liverpool dockworkers to set up their own labour supply company. International colleagues in attendance raised their concern over the agency labour that currently uses the Port of Liverpool. They made the point that unless all strike-breaking labour contractors, including Drake Port Services, are removed from the Port and an exclusive contract achieved to work the Container Terminal, the labour supply initiative would end in disaster.

At the end of the debate, it was agreed that a resolution be sent to all international dockworkers unions supporting the Liverpool dockworkers proposals for supplying labour to the whole of the Port of Liverpool. It was also agreed that for a labour supply company to succeed, there would be a need to step up International pressure on all those shipping companies that still use the Port of Liverpool, (A.C.L, Cast, Canmar, Zim Lines, Ellermans, Gracechurch and Baltic Shipping Companies), so that they fully understand the seriousness of our intentions to return to the Port of Liverpool as a permanently well organised workforce, with full union rights and conditions and that they have the opportunity to make a choice between peace and prosperity within the Port or face the prospect of continual International actions being taken against their companies.

Invitations and details of the full Conference will be sent out shortly by the Conference hosts: The Syndicat Des Debardeurs, S.C.F.P. Section Locale 375, 7020 Notre-Dame Est, Montreal, Quebec, H1N 3L6, Canada.

## Amsterdam dockers blockade tunnel

Dockers in the port of Amsterdam struck April 11 against casualisation plans. The 150 registered dock workers also blockaded an important road tunnel in Amsterdam as part of their protest. In a message to LabourNet the Amsterdam dockers union described their fight as "exactly the same" as that of the dockers of Liverpool and Santos and say they will be publicising both of these disputes during their own actions.

## Competing to the poorhouse

The Australian government is demanding that the Maritime Union of Australia deliver an "internationally competitive and reliable work force." The government has called on employers to circumvent the union, and sign legally enforceable no-strike contracts with non-union stevedores.

## Niger general strike

The arrest on March 28 of the deputy general secretary of the Union syndicale des travailleurs du Niger (USTN), Niger's national union centre, prompted the organisation to call yet another general strike against the government. The strike, the fifth in the recent months, took place April 7-9, demanding the release of all detained unionists. Twenty-four workers have been arrested for union activities for protesting the government's failure to pay several months of unpaid wages and privatisation scheme. Most detained activists come from the electricity company, Nigelec, a state-owned enterprise which is among a dozen companies to be privatised.

The most recent arrests came as a three-day general strike demanding payment of the owed wages and an end to retaliation against union activists drew to a close. The government has reacted angrily to the union protests, arresting activists and threatening strikers with deductions from their salaries. On March 24, the custom trade union (SNAD) was forcibly dissolved after a two-day strike to protest police repression.

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## Canadian workers battle cut-backs

10,000 Franco-Ontarians and healthcare supporters demonstrated March 22 in Ottawa to oppose the government plan to close the only French-language hospital in the province, the Montfort. Ten Toronto hospitals and many others across the province are on the government's axe list. Health workers at the Ottawa and Toronto hospitals have taken short warning strikes.

March 21-22 were **Days of Protest** in Sudbury against the Ontario government cut of education, health and welfare, with three thousand marching on the 22nd. However the area's largest private sector union, the United Steelworkers refused to support a general city strike. A group of unions closely allied to the New Democratic Party (Steelworkers, United Food and Commercial Workers and Chemical, Energy and Paper Workers) formed an alliance to thwart the general strikes that have been sweeping the province. Basically their argument is that such political strikes may damage the chances of the NDP in the next election.

The next strike was set for Windsor in June, but has now been called off because the NDP (who controls the local labour council) thinks it will harm their chances in the federal election slated for June.

Two managers of the **Westray Mine** (Nova Scotia) have been ordered to stand for a new trial by the Supreme Court of Canada. An earlier trial was suspended due to political influence. The families of the 26 men killed in the 1992 explosion have pursued the matter. The managers are charged with failing to prevent buildup of methane and coal dust.

*Toronto Star* columnist Richard Gwyn says the key principal behind keeping inflation low is "to keep workers terrified that they may lose their jobs." Gwyn said while all post-war governments made full employment their prime goal, that has now changed to keeping inflation rates low.

A new study by the Canadian Council on Social Development concludes that a job is less likely to lift a Canadian family out of **poverty** than it was a decade ago. "Unless changes to our labour market institutions are made ... it seems unlikely that poor families will have any real hope of becoming more self-reliant in the future," said co-author David Ross. According to the study, 20.3 per cent of Ontario families have jobs that pay less than the poverty line.

The Canadian School Boards Association said children's ability to learn in the classroom is being hampered by poverty. The number of children affected by poverty is 49 percent higher than it was in 1989 when the government pledged to wipe out child poverty by 2000.

The director of the Christian Food Bank in Moncton, New Brunswick, says 15 percent of those using the food bank are employed either full-time or part-time. Their minimum wage employment can't cover all the bills.

A Statistics Canada study showed only 55 percent of Canadians working "normal" hours in 1995. The manager of the Labour Force Survey said the move to more abnormal work weeks could reflect a strategy among employers "in which they invest in highly skilled workers who will work long hours, then fill in with lesser-skilled, part-time workers with less benefits and lower hiring costs." The effect of this change is that key employees are over-worked and more positions are downgraded to part-time.

### LaborTECH '97

The seventh LaborTECH Conference will be held in San Francisco July 11 - 13 at the 7 Hills Conference Center at San Francisco State University. For information e-mail conference coordinator Erica Zweig at [erica@igc.apc.org](mailto:erica@igc.apc.org)

# Organizing the Education Industry

"The university is profoundly undemocratic, like most of the institutions in our society," historian Howard Zinn told education workers from throughout the northeastern United States at an April 5 Conference on the University Workplace held at the University of Massachusetts at Boston. Zinn recalled the Communards of Paris, who sent leaflets out to peasants in the surrounding countryside bearing a simple message: Our interests are the same.

Students, teachers and secretaries all have common interests, Zinn insisted. "The people of power in the university are those who don't teach and don't study - administrators, trustees, anybody but those who

should be running our education." How do these parasites retain their control? Zinn recalled a Boston University strike where faculty and clerical workers struck together - but the faculty went back to work when administrators offered a settlement, leaving other workers to fight (and lose) alone.

Other speakers discussed the ongoing corporate agenda, which seeks to transform education into a profit center and to shut down those sectors that merely serve human needs. Elaine Bernard of the Harvard Trade Union Program pointed to a Lehman Brothers analysis that described higher education as a \$600 billion industry with "strong growth potential," much like the health care indus-

try 20 years ago. Too much debate is focussed on the costs of education, she argued, losing sight of broader issues such as the kind of society we want to live in.

Jonathan King (MIT) argued that with increased automation the employing class needs fewer skilled workers and is no longer willing to educate workers they don't need. Instead of defending education as preparation for jobs that aren't there, he suggested, we should take the offensive and demand that all people have the right to higher and continuing education simply to develop their capabilities and pursue their interests. Any society that can afford to spend \$300 billion on weapons systems we hope will never be used can afford to fund education for all who want to learn, King insisted.

In an interesting sidelight, Andrea Cole of HERE Locals 34/35 noted how Yale University tried to bust their unions by stopping the deduction of union dues from workers' paychecks. The union was able to withstand this only because it had already built a network of delegates in each building to mobilize its members during the long contract battle (a battle in which the graduate employees were tossed overboard to the tender mercies of the administration). But the incident shows the wisdom of the IWW's policy of prohibiting dues check-off.

Other sessions addressed the growing use of temporary and part-time workers, the ideological forces that shape what gets taught, the continuing struggle for pay equity, attacks on job security, communications strategies, student organizing and political strategies. Mark Blum of the Communication Workers of America's Higher Education Project spoke of the innovative book-keeping practices many colleges have adopted to "prove" that they have no money, including hiding money in pseudo-endowments and other non-operating accounts, laundering it through university foundations and other corporate shells, etc.

While there was relatively little criticism of the business unions and their failed strategies, Bernard did note the need to think beyond contracts and collective bargaining. "Our goal has to be self-organization," Bernard said. "Workers have to act for ourselves." Several copies of an IWW leaflet for education workers were distributed, and several participants in a session on organizing strategies agreed with my argument for industrial organization, rather than dividing education workers into a jigsaw puzzle of craft unionism. And I met a co-worker at "my" college who is also interested in organizing the place.

—X331117

## TA unions to meet

A national conference of graduate employee unions is planned for July 25-27 in Eugene, Oregon. Despite efforts to stamp out graduate-based employee organizing, 1996 and 1997 have seen great strides in graduate employee activism. This conference will celebrate our wins, and share and learn from our woes.

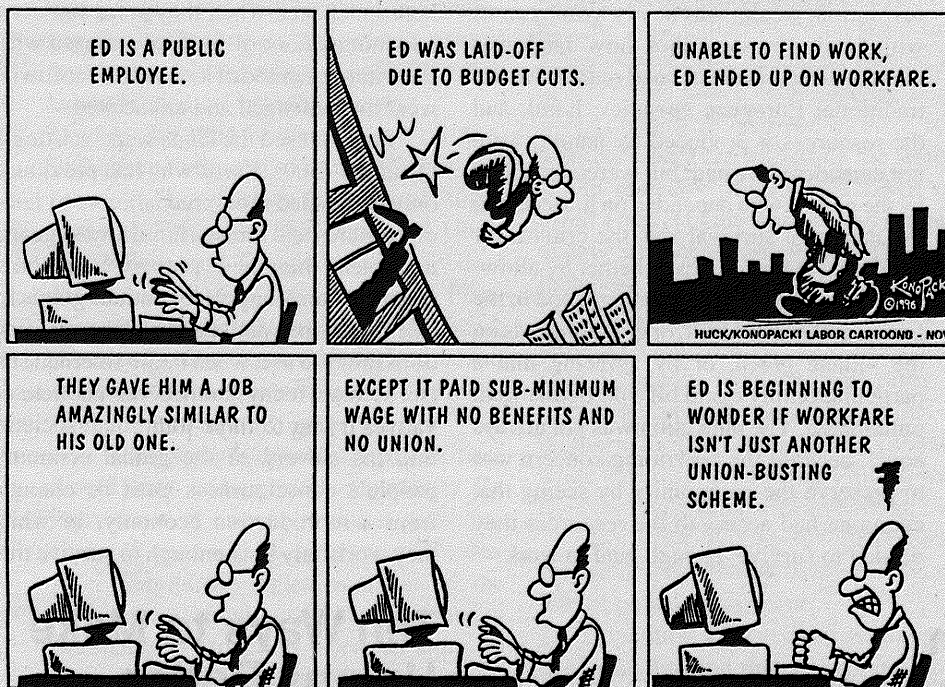
Information is available on-line at: <http://efn.org/~gtff/cgeu97.html> or via email from [edweb@efn.org](mailto:edweb@efn.org)

## Fight wins education funding

Festive demonstrations by hundreds of Nicaraguan students won 6 percent of the annual state budget to higher education through a narrow legislative vote March 11.

The student rally in Managua included music, fireworks and a victory parade around the Assembly building after one legislator gave them a majority vote.

Nicaragua's constitution guarantees 6 percent of the budget for education, but students routinely have to publicly pressure for the government to uphold the constitution.



## Palestinian teachers strike

Thousands of teachers demanding salary increases stayed home from West Bank schools April 5 in the first major strike against Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority. Schools in Nablus, Jenin, Hebron, Bethlehem and Ramallah were closed, keeping hundreds of thousands of students out of class. Schools in the Gaza Strip are administered separately and teachers there did not strike.

The strike was called by the West Bank Teachers Coordination High Committee, which is demanding salary increases of between 85 and 100 percent. The current average salary for Palestinian teachers is about \$400 a month. Basic monthly expenses like food and housing cost an average-sized West Bank family of seven \$790.

The strike follows a year of protests by the teachers, and a decision by Education Minister Yasser Amr to fire 19 teachers for union activity. He rescinded the firings after the strike began.

## Part-timers lose ground in University of Windsor pact

An agreement was ratified March 31 between CUPE 1001 and the administration at the University of Windsor, following a strike of about six weeks. Management was out to break the union, but support on campus, the city of Windsor and around the world brought enough pressure to bear to bring management back to the table. The office of university president Ron Ianni was flooded with e-mail, calls and faxes from supporters around the world, who were instrumental in bringing an end to the strike.

The union voted 94 percent in favour of a settlement which includes substantial concessions. Current employees will receive a small wage increase or accept a freeze, while new hires in part-time food services will start at \$8.50 an hour, 38 percent less than their co-workers. And, if there isn't a turnover of 35 workers by the end of the year, the lowest seniority workers will have to shift to the lower wage grid.

## University workers say no to AFSCME

Capping a year-long organizing effort, the Coalition of University Employees (CUE) filed for a recertification election for 18,351 University of California clerical workers March 17. The workers are presently represented by the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees, which won a representation election in 1983 and immediately dismantled the rank-and-file run campus locals which had made its victory possible. AFSCME membership has since fallen to less than 5 percent of UC clerical workers.

CUE is promising workers that it will be "a very different kind of union than AFSCME," one controlled by its members. Santa Cruz member Zoe Sodja insists that clerical workers have the power to win better conditions. "The University can't function without our work. We're committed to making this University a better place, and now we want to see the University make a commitment to treat us decently."

## Privatization protested

Almost 100 hooded University of San Carlos students in Guatemala took over the press box of the national congress February 18 to protest privatization of education and other social services.

University Students Association members occupied the office after the congress' president refused their demand to speak during congressional debate of privatization plans. The protest was part of the 99th annual student-organized festival of political theater called the Strike of Sorrows.

A coalition led by a national teachers' association is challenging the privatization of education. The selling off of schools "seeks to convert the state into a piñata," said a teacher spokesperson. A few weeks later, three activists with a professional social sciences association were physically attacked and threatened with death by security forces. Members of the association have been threatened since the early 1990s.



# Private Ownership and other crimes

**To Have And To Hold: The Meaning of Ownership in the United States.** Neala Schleuning (Praeger, 1997), 243 pp., \$59.95

Schleuning begins by asking what property is. Her answer is a journey through what it has been in the past, what it is for mainstream American consumers today, and what she thinks it ought to be, all revolving around the theme of enclosure. Though she doesn't mention the IWW, or indeed the labor movement at all, in many ways her conclusions both confirm Wobbly beliefs and add some perspectives to them.

An independent scholar of American studies, she says she wrote the book to clarify her own values when she found that she was becoming more prosperous and not sharing her good fortune with others, as she had always assumed she would. The contours of her treatment reflect its nature as a personal quest, not attempting to cover the entire territory, but following certain, almost idiosyncratic, pathways through it.

Fundamentally she finds two distinct meanings of property. The earlier kind of property is created by combining common resources and someone's effort, we're not embarrassed to call it labor. If someone for example, makes a bowl out of clay from the riverbank, they own that bowl by virtue of the labor they put into gathering and transforming the clay. But they don't own the riverbank or any clay they didn't transform. The other kind of property is created by

appropriating resources from the common wealth for exclusive use. In the same example, if someone fenced off the riverbank or carried off the clay they would own it even if they never used it, and could prevent anyone else from making bowls without their permission, usually for some compensation. The key difference is the control of access to common resources.

After what's probably an academically necessary and necessarily dry chapter surveying the ponderings of famous philosophers on the meaning of property and ownership, she launches into a history of what has today become real estate. Noting that until the rise of commerce and the industrial revolution, wealth was nearly synonymous with land, she describes how land was owned, used, divided, and cared for by traditional European societies. Land, and the resources it produced by nature, were not considered owned, but were controlled by the people who depended on it. Access to the means of survival was the criteria for allocating the resources, whether by allowing everyone to hunt and gather wood in the forest, gather wild fruit, or graze animals on the village green, or by agreeing that a particular family could till a particular field unhindered. The allocation was not always equal, because the overriding concern was to preserve the community by seeing that everyone had access to the resources they needed to survive, enough land to work.

She debunks in the few words needed what modern champions of private property call the Tragedy of the Commons. The classic version of the myth goes like this: because most people are naturally greedy, everyone but too few saints put too many sheep on the village green so that it was perpetually overgrazed and couldn't support any sheep at all; thus the wise and beneficent lord was forced to take it into his keeping to save everyone from starvation. Not a shred of contemporary evidence exists for such a problem, she points out, not even as justification by the lords who enclosed the commons for their private gain. Indeed, she shows that resources were much better managed when they were subject to community control, and only abused when the whims or greed of a single private owner went unchallenged and unchecked.

For enclosed the lands were: starting in about the 1500s. Lords who had previously only demanded rent hired laborers to fence off pastures and forests, hired armed guards to protect their new property, and hired shepherds and loggers to produce goods for sale rather than for survival. The justifications they did use, when they bothered at all, can be heard today from liberals and conservatives trying to force traditional societies into the slavery of the global economy: people's consciousness must be changed from a reproduction economy, in which they work only long enough to survive then

find something more interesting to do, to a production economy, in which maximizing production and concentrating wealth is the purpose of all endeavor.

Schleuning spends a bit too much time for my taste on land ownership, even while admitting that for the past century or two in Europe and the U.S., it hasn't been the basis for wealth but merely another commodity to buy and sell. The only land most Americans own now is whatever happened to come with the house, which was their primary acquisition. She does point out that all land is owned now, which didn't used to be the

## Book Review

case, and discusses some current property issues relating to environmental exploitation and protection.

More interesting to me is her application of enclosure to industrial production. Drawing at least partly from E.P. Thompson's classic *The Making of the English Working Class* (1966), she explains how early artisans worked at home or in their own shop, with their own tools and at their own schedules; they incorporated the production of goods with the reproduction economy of maintaining a home and family. In the 1700s and 1800s however production moved to the capitalists' factory. There are physical reasons for the change, including the heavy investment necessary for new large machines, and the need to concentrate new sources of power, such as water or coal. But she points out that the change could have been different had the workers rather than the capitalists held the power.

Thus the boss enclosed both the tools necessary for survival and the workers' time itself. Henceforth access, and so survival, was controlled by a few owners, who would grant access only when they could make a profit from doing so. Workers were not to benefit from the increased wealth they could produce with the new machines, for their work was severed from the rest of their lives and chopped up into jobs that someone else owned.

So what do people own now? she asks, and answers that they own stuff: cars, televisions, CD players, clothes, and other ephemerals that have nothing at all to do with survival. She describes how products are no longer acquired for their usefulness, but either for their exchange value or, more commonly, their status value. She marvels that people buy overpriced items of fashion that they fully intend to throw away and replace the minute the trend changes, and analyzes how mass-produced commodities are emptied of any inherent meaning, and then filled by advertising with all the value people seek but have lost — home, community, freedom, happiness, etc.

I must confess that I got seriously bogged down in what may be for Schleuning the core chapter of the book, on enclosing the image of women. I don't whether that was because the constructions are beyond my capacity to follow, because they're a tangle of meaningless academic jargon, because the exploitation of women is too obvious and odious to need explanation, or because I'm a chauvinist pig. I finally decided I had to bail out of or I'd never finish the rest of the book. I did run across some intriguing points however, such as that advertising is a subset of pornography, that men's obsession with women's genitalia reflects a longing for the reproductive economy they've been denied, and that access to women is one of the resources for which a sense of scarcity is

## "Liberty, Equality, Cooperation"

May Day greetings from the  
Affinity Group of Evolutionary Anarchists  
P.O. Box 1402, Lawrence KS 66044-8402 USA

## Bust Went the Boom

Got a job in seventy-nine, everything was going fine.

Though I knew the pace was fast, I thought it would always last.

When organizers came around, I'd always sneer and turn them down.

Thought the boss was my best friend, he'd stick by me to the end.

Ta-ra-ra-boom-dee-ay! Ain't got a word to say.

He chisled down my pay, downsized my job away.

Bust went the boom one day, that job has gone, OK.

I wish I had been wise. Next time I'll organize!

Had a little bank account, not so much, a small amount.

The S&L my savings took, for which I got a savings book.

Pinched on food and scraped on rent, hardly ever spent a cent.

My little savings grew and grew, I thought I'd be a big shot, too.

Ta-ra-ra-boom-dee-ay! The boom went bust one day.

There went my hard-earned pay, each dime I'd socked away.

I must have been a dupe; now I eat welfare soup.

Where can that banker be? He stole the pants off me!

Their welfare check and cop-with-gun both tried to make their system run.

Their politicians smiled and swore, We'll make things like things was before.

Still it finally came to pass, all I had to eat was grass.

The wolf don't bother anymore: He starved to death outside my door.

Ta-ra-ra-boom-dee-ay! We're going to have our say

with crooks who stole our pay. We'll bust them up someday.

The Wobbly union way, is kick them out to stay!

Us dogs will have our day, ta-ra-ra-boom-dee-ay!

lyrics attributed to one W. O. Blee, according to the April 18, 1933 Industrial Worker, updated by Mark Manning

## Fighting the fascist menace...

continued from page 1

stroyed the CGT union offices in Segovia. And on March 15 a neonazi militat and professional soldier was arrested as he was setting fire to a bar patronized by anti-fascist youth. He was released conditionally the following day.

"We know that in our struggle for a free

## Labor Arts Festival

A Labor Arts and History Festival and sessions of the 29th Annual Labor History Conference will take place during Northwest Folklife at Seattle Center, May 23 - 26. Pete Seeger and other national and regional artists will perform at the Festival. A Labor Teach-in will precede the Festival.

For information, contact the Labor Education & Research Center, Evergreen State College, Olympia WA 98505 phone: 206/866-6000 Ext. 6525

and just society," the French Anarchists note, "We'll always find resolute enemies... Our enemy is not only the fascism, but a whole society of exploitation and oppression: so we refuse to fragment our struggle, which has to be global."

In the United States our domestic fascists are generally too busy blowing up government buildings and parading about in Klan robes and Nazi uniforms to burn down union halls, though many black and immigrant workers have lost their lives. But surely the more insidious danger lies in the integration of their racist and anti-immigrant ideas into the political mainstream.

In the U.S., as in Europe, many politicians find it easier to blame economic hardship and social collapse on our immigrant fellow workers — rather than confront the capitalist system which actually causes these problems. So long as we permit the bosses to pit us against each other, we assure that the bossed will continue to have a free hand.

## Ten Ways to Make Unions Better

1. If you are on the picket line in 10 degree weather, so are your union officials.

2. If you keep losing ground on contracts, maybe your company should be paying your union dues.

3. Unions should come with warranty and money-back guarantees.

4. Periodic service cards will be given to evaluate performance of your union officials.

5. International officials who negotiate your contract should work in your place of employment for at least six months before they begin negotiating.

6. Officials will receive the same percent of concessions if they negotiate a concessionary contract.

7. Eliminate dues check-off from pay-check so the union would be able to be held accountable by members withholding dues.

8. Union officials' salaries should never be paid by the company.

9. Retirees should be allowed to vote on contracts, and no two- and three-tier wages for new hires.

10. Merit pay for union officials.

— Jim Jordan

## Oakland strikers win

Workers at Rubber Stampede, an Oakland-Emerlyville rubber stamp manufacturer, defeated a union-busting employer and forced him to meet their demands. Sam Katzen, Rubber Stampede's owner, had bragged that he would never allow a union inside the plant. But after a bitter four-month strike, the 140 factory workers have won union representation by Warehouse Union Local 6, ILWU.

A four-year contract provides workers with full union recognition, guaranteed seniority rights, substantial wage increases (70 cents an hour this year, and 40 cent raises in each of the next three years), a union hiring hall, and health and welfare benefits. Workers who participated in this historic struggle — almost all Latina women — shouted for joy as they counted the ballots from the contract vote. The workers unanimously approved the agreement.







# Nicaraguan workers fired for union activity

The Witness for Peace Nicaragua Team reports from Managua that workers have been fired for union activity at the NHI apparel assembly plant (maquila) located in Managua's Free Trade Zone. The 1400 workers at the plant make jeans, shorts and denim dresses. Bugle Boy is NHI's major client, with other brands currently being produced including Arizona, Honors, Route 66, and "no excuses."

Since February, 1997, 18 unionists have been fired from Nien Hsing International (NHI), a Taiwanese-owned plant. The workers are not affiliated to any particular labor organization, though the CTN-Autónomo

assisted the workers in filing papers with the Labor Ministry.

The impetus for organizing stems from workers' frustration over poor working conditions. Abuses mentioned by the workers include: cheating workers out of bonuses, overtime etc.; Forced overtime, being sent home early if there's not enough work and then being required "to make up" hours on the weekend; Having to ask permission to go to bathroom; Night shift for 9 hours straight without a break (the Labor Code specifies a maximum of 7 hours); Frequent verbal and physical abuse; Firings for complaining or "talking back"; Firings of work-

ers who report in sick "too often"; Refusal to allow workers go to the health clinic.

On January 26, despite widespread fear of owner reprisals, 27 workers held a meeting to officially form a union. All 27 were men who worked on the night shift, in the washing and drying area. On Jan 28 they registered their union with the Ministry of Labor. This step is equivalent to asking for legal recognition under Nicaraguan labor law. The workers can then submit a list of negotiating points or demands, and the company is required, under the law, to respond within a certain time frame.

Before the workers could present a list

of demands two workers were fired Feb 6. Two more were fired on the 10th, 2 more on the 11th, 1 on the 12th and 3 on the 13th. More workers were fired in March, leading to a total of 18. The General Secretary of the union, Manuel Castillo, was among the first to be fired.

NHI said that layoffs were due to changes in the labor needs of the assembly plant and offered them all severance pay. But NHI would have no reason to lay off half its laundry crew, and only unionists were fired. The fired workers all refused to sign their letters of dismissal and went to the Ministry of Labor to protest the firings.

The Ministry of Labor agreed that the firings were illegal and ordered the workers to be reinstated. NHI refused to do so and refuses to take the workers back. The workers are asking supporters to fax letters of concern to General Manager Lucas Huang at 011-505-263-2073.

Send copies of the letter to: Mr. César Zamora, Economic Attache, Nicaraguan Embassy, 1627 New Hampshire Ave. NW, Washington DC 20009

## Ford unions win job security?

The press releases and union journals trumpeted the official line: "Victory! Unions win job security at Ford." (AEEU circular) But Ford workers in Britain knew the reality; nearly 1,000 jobs were to be destroyed at the Halewood plants, with Escorts, one of the top-selling cars in Britain, no longer to be produced there. In fact, little had changed from Ford's original declaration of 1,300 'redundancies' that had produced a nationwide reaction in the Ford plants, with every plant backing action against what they saw as the final straw. Alex Trotman, world chief of Ford, had announced on TV Ford's strategy of relocating production at low-wage sites in Poland, Russia, India etc.

It was not only a Halewood issue, every job was in danger. For the first time in over 10 years an estate-wide shop stewards meeting took place in Dagenham. There as elsewhere, stewards agreed to mobilise the workforce to defeat the company plan.

Hundreds of workers travelled to London to lobby a meeting of the company with the union officials; mainly from Halewood, but with delegations from all plants. All were agreed, Escort production must remain in Britain. An anxious looking Tony Woodley (TGWU national official) told the assembled workers that they must be ready to take action and that the union officials would not rest until the jobs were secured.

But at a meeting on 6/7 February of union officials with Jac Nasser, Chairman of Ford Europe (known as 'Jac the Knife' for his destruction of jobs at Ford Australia), the deal was done before any action was

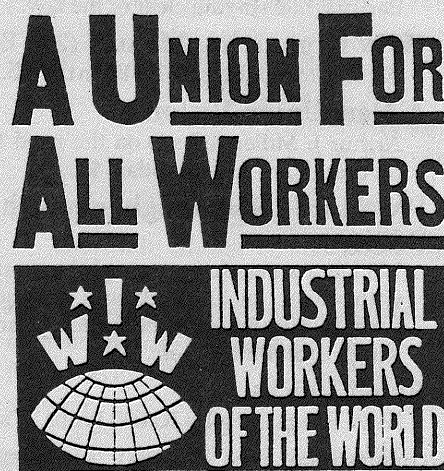
taken. Job losses were reduced from 1,300 to 980, but other claimed 'gains' were in fact already known; the existing Escort van production would continue on one shift only until the year 2000, Escort estates currently produced in Spain would transfer to Halewood for a few years, but all new model Escorts are to be produced elsewhere. A vague promise was made that a multi-activity vehicle (MAV) might be sited in Halewood, but as the union officials had previously pointed out, the MAV wasn't even on the drawing board yet, nor had Ford committed any investment to it.

The agreement was rammed down the throats of Ford workers, who had just voted for mass action to defend jobs. An agreement that accepted 980 job losses was declared a victory. Local union Convenors were refused permission to hold mass meetings to report back and were told by the company that Tony Woodley had insisted upon it! Shop stewards and workers realised that they had been betrayed. The outcome was a betrayal, but the new readiness and spirit of the workforce to fight the company plans was revealed.

— Keith Scotcher  
(Ford, Dagenham)

### Phillips Van-Heusen in talks

Phillips Van-Heusen has begun negotiations with union leaders in Guatemala City after an international campaign calling attention to the company's labor practices, including slashing pay to union supporters by as much as two-thirds.



## Walking ghosts in Satan's factory

That's how a new Australian report describes a Nike contractor's Indonesian factory. At Feng Tay's factory in Banjaran: supervisors systematically abuse women workers; the average work day is 11.5 hours and 81% of workers work seven days a week; Workers who take sick leave are dismissed instantly; The average age of workers is 16, 41% of workers were under 16 when they first started working.

The title of the report, "Nike's Satanic Factories in West Java," comes from a villager's description when asked one night where workers from the plant could be found. They were all at work.

Most workers earned about \$2.50 a day plus overtime, which was sometimes docked for underperformance. Despite Nike's assertion that it had little control over licensee factories, two US Nike representatives worked on the factory floor.

## Iranian oil strikers killed by militia

A huge oil workers rally took place in front of the oil ministry in Tehran, Iran, February 16 and the Islamic militias attacked the crowd. Hundreds were arrested. Most of those detained were released after several days, but some are still in prison. At least two demonstrators have died of the injuries inflicted upon them in detention.

Oil workers of the Shiraz refinery marched to the city and demanded the unconditional release of their fellow workers and acceptance of all their demands by the government, including the right to organise and the right to collective bargaining.

Since then a new wave of arrests has begun, and more than 50 oil workers have been taken to unknown prisons. All refineries are surrounded by Islamic militia guards; the refineries are under siege.

Despite government claims that there had been negotiations leading to a settlement, there have been no negotiations concerning the basic demands of the workers. The regime has told the workers that collective bargaining and forming independent organisations is out of the question.

## Place Not Your Faith In The A.F. of L.

It is not for the purpose of throwing cold water on any real tendency toward the Solidarity of labor that labor should be warned against placing any faith in any A.F. of L. pretense at transformation. The A.F. of L. is

so divided by contracts, trade agreements, district, craft and other divisions as to make it impossible for it to organize the workers either industrially or as a class; especially in any constructive attempt to replace the present capitalist system with one in favor of the workers' ownership and control.

The A.F. of L. is mainly recruited by employers through check-off, union label purchase, and other systems. Intellectually, it is dominated by a capitalist intelligentsia, working in cooperation with the National Civic Federation, and fighting, tooth and nail any attempts to overthrow or replace the present system. The A.F. of L. is the greatest bulwark against social transformation in this country.

The A.F. of L. has repeatedly given evidence of its inability to either understand present economic conditions or offer a rem-

edy for their solution. It harkens back to old policies, blaming the Federal administration for its own faulty organization, shortsightedness and incompetency; forming farmer-labor alliances; pleading with the

capitalists against going too far, and raising the cry of "the reds 'ill git yu ef yu don't watch out"; or shouting the "One Big Union menace" to win something from them. When the A.F. of L. is not doing this, it is cooperating with the corporations in defeating industrial unionism, as witness Lewis of the miners, Furuseth of the seamen, etc. What constructiveness is evidenced in all this?

In the past, the A.F. of L. has made frequent grandstand plays at greater labor unionism. On the railroads it organized the system federations. In the packing, steel and iron industries, it "amalgamated." These were simply new forms, more extensive forms, of the old labor dividing principles. They went to smash in the struggle for supremacy of the interests of the international unions affected.

More recently an alliance of miners and railroaders was announced. What has be-

come of it?

Thirty years of A.F. of L. history makes possible the prediction that any attempt on the part of an aggressive minority to revolutionize the A.F. of L. will end with that minority on the outside.

The A.F. of L. will be transformed by

the external destructions of the capitalist forces opposed to it, and the internal eruptions of the "outlaws" and "radicals" within it.

Both will help along a third factor, the I.W.W., which will succeed the A.F. of L.

In these tendencies lie the hope of greater labor Solidarity.

— *Industrial Solidarity*, April 1, 1922

**75 years ago in the IWW press**

## Be a Wobbly — Join the IWW...

**Real Democracy!** All policy decisions are made by referendum. The IWW has just one (modestly) paid officer, the General Secretary-Treasurer. The 7-member General Executive Board is elected annually by the entire membership. All officers may be recalled by referendum. IWW workplaces and branches make their own decisions about bargaining and strategy.

**To Join** mail this form with a check or money order for initiation and first month's dues to IWW, 103 West Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti MI 48197, or contact your local delegate. **Dues:** Monthly income under \$800: \$5 per month; Income \$1,000-2,000: \$10 monthly; Over \$2,000: Dues \$15. Initiation Fee is same as one month's dues. A low-income worker can join for as little as \$10.00

☐ I affirm that I am a worker, and that I am not an employer.  
☐ I agree to abide by the IWW constitution and regulations.  
☐ I will study its principles and make myself acquainted with its purposes.  
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 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State/Prov.: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Membership includes a subscription to the Industrial Worker*